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THE HISTORY OF WENDOVER

IN THE
COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND SKETCH MAPS.

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PREFACE.

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PROBABLY most of us have at one time or another felt a desire to know something of the place we live in—how and when it came into existence, what sort of people have lived in it, and what events have happened there in the centuries which have gone before us. Such curiosity in my own case led me to look into the history of Wendover, and at a lecture delivered on the subject, and subsequently, the wish was expressed that the material might be put into book form. The present little book is the result. Though I have naturally made great use of Lipscomb's *History of Buckinghamshire*, Sheahan's *History and Topography of the County of Buckingham*, several of the late Mr. Gibbs' books, and Lord Nugent's *Memorials of John Hampden*, I found a large amount of the material which goes to make up the history of Wendover hidden away in various books and documents too numerous to mention here, and I am indebted to the Rev. Albert Smith, M.A., Lady Verney, Mr. Edward Jenks, M.A., B.C.L., Mrs. E. J. Payne, Miss Starbuck, Miss Savory, Mr. E. Hollis, F.Z.S., Mr. James Stevens, and Mr. F. J. Mead, among other kind helpers, for the loan of documents or books or for information upon matters of which they possessed special knowledge.

LEONARD H. WEST.

*The Grange,
Wendover.*

History of Wendover.

Wendover lies at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, in Buckinghamshire, and at the head of the valley which here cuts the Hills and runs, with the little river Misbourne as its centre, through Missenden, Amersham, and the Chalfonts. Lord Avebury, in his *Scenery of England*, speaks of these gaps in the Chilterns as very impressive, and of the Wendover gap as "300 feet deep, the summit of the pass being 503 feet above the sea, while the ridge on either side rises to 700 and 800." He adds that the floors of the valleys are occupied by unmistakable river gravels, and this is well illustrated in the case of Wendover, a gravel pit of some size being worked on the east of the road about the summit of the gap.

We need not, however, go back to a period before England emerged from the sea and became dry land. The late Mr. E. J. Payne, himself a Wendover resident and a high authority upon the subject, was of opinion that in the early British age there had been a settlement of considerable size at the foot of Bacombe Hill, one of the ridges Lord Avebury refers to, close to the Icknield Way. This Hill was formerly spelt Backham and Backcomb, meaning Beacon Hill, and gives extended views of the surrounding country and the whole course, it is said, of the Icknield Way throughout the county. In the very early times, when it was essential to have the utmost security against the attacks of hostile tribes, it would afford an excellent site for settlement, and there are still clear traces of vallum and other earthwork. As times became less turbulent, the Britons abandoned this early settlement, descended to a lower and more sheltered situation, and the name of the original village was lost.

There are two theories as to the period at which the Wendover we know came into existence. The origin of the name is naturally very material in such questions.

but is a matter of great difficulty. Some authorities are satisfied by explaining it as nothing more than the *Wend-over* the Hills, or *Wend-over* the Stream, it being suggested that there was a ford over the stream where it crosses the Icknield Way, now generally called Tring Road. These suggestions certainly have the merit of simplicity, though it is to be feared not of accuracy, and that they will not assist us in our quest. Mr. Payne would carry us back to the British period, stating that the name is derived from the Celtic *Gwaen-Y-Dyffryn*, the marsh in the glen, and the same idea of marsh or low land is to be found in the description of Wendover given by several old writers "built in a low bottom among the Chiltern Hills," Leland's "in lowe stiffe clay," and perhaps in the "Clay Lane" of Wendover of to-day. Again in modern Welsh, *Gwynddwfr* means white water or clear water, and is still the name of some brooks in Wales. Other authorities find difficulties in a Celtic origin for the name of Wendover, and would derive it from the Saxon *ofer*, *over*, a bank or shore, one suggestion being that it is the town on the bank or shore (*over*) of the winding (*wand*, *wend*) stream. Mr. W. H. Stevenson, M.A., St. John's College, Oxford, however, points out that the first part of the name—Wend—must be a noun; we do not know its meaning, but it occurs in other local names, *e.g.*, Wendy, in Cambridgeshire. Perhaps it was itself the name of the brook which runs through the town, in which case the latter's name means simply Wend bank. Mr. Stevenson informs me that the earliest recorded mention of the name of Wendover occurs A.D. 965-975 in the Will of Ælfheah, Aldorman, a relative of King Eadgar, who, among other devises, gave to his royal lord lands at "Ægelesbyrig" (Aylesbury) and "Wændofron." There is such unanimity among the eminent Celtic and Anglo-Saxon scholars of to-day who have been good enough to express an opinion upon the etymology of Wendover, to the effect that the name is Saxon rather than Celtic, that there seems no alternative but to abandon a British origin for the name;

but that does not preclude the possibility of there having been a British settlement which subsequently in Saxon times acquired the name of Wendover.

The fact of the Icknield Way running through Wendover tends to support the view that the place is of British origin, for the way is now generally accepted to be British, *i.e.*, Pre-Roman, in origin, probably derived from the Iceni as it runs from their Kingdom on the borders of Norfolk, through Suffolk, Cambridge, Herts, Beds, Bucks, Oxfordshire, Berks, Hants, and Wilts into Dorset—not, in most of its course, straight, like the Roman roads, for instance, Ermine Street, which joins it at Royston, Watling Street at Dunstable, or Akeman Street near Tring; nor does it appear to have ever been paved or raised like the Roman roads, but in some parts, *e.g.*, Ridgeway in Berks, still remains a grass road or track, winding along the flank of the chalk hills.

Probably the Roman General (Aulus Plautius) marched along it on the first serious attempt of the Romans to permanently conquer Britain (A.D. 43), as we learn he crossed the Thames near Wallingford and fought a great battle against the sons of Cunobelin, or Cymbeline, under what we know as Cymbeline Mount, near Kimble, when one of the princes was killed and the Romans marched on London. Kimble is, of course, supposed to be derived from *Cunobel*, or from *Cynebel*, which latter means the King's funeral pile.

Probably also Boadicea, the warrior Queen of the Iceni, may have marched along this road in her attack on the Romans and massacre of London, and probably not far from it the great Battle, in which 80,000 of her followers were slaughtered by the Romans, took place, as also her own death from poison administered by herself (A.D. 62).

The determination of the question whether Wendover was British or Saxon in origin would make a

difference of some 500 to 800 years in its antiquity, but there is strong probability that it already existed in the stirring times alluded to, and can now be little less than 2,000 years old.

The Parish is singularly rich in what are apparently British earthworks, for besides those on Bacombe Hill, which deserve more expert examination than they have yet received, Grim's Dyke, which has puzzled so many antiquaries, runs through the parish and can be clearly traced in several places. Whether really British, Roman, or Saxon, and whether a territorial boundary or military work, are questions still unanswered. Lipscomb says "it is more likely to have been the limits, in part of its line, of the Mercian Kingdom, than a fortification, though undoubtedly capable, in some of its course, of being converted to purposes of defence, against an encroaching enemy." Mr. Ditchfield, in *Memorials of Old Buckinghamshire*, agrees in its marking a boundary rather than being a military work, but thinks it of British origin: "This vast earthwork was probably made by the Celts as a great tribal boundary, possibly as a defence against the Belgae . . . and the name given to it by the Saxons, . . . who attributed its construction to the agency of the Devil or Grim."

Nearer Lee, in Bray's Wood, there are entrenchments of considerable magnitude, and the theory is that these mark the site of a fortified British village, and subsequently Roman camp, the inhabitants of which worked imported iron in forges in the woods below.

There is evidence that the Danes reached the neighbourhood of Wendover, and it is suggested that we have traces of them in Wendover Dean (Dane) and Dutchlands; but Mr. Payne says Dean merely means Vale, and the gold armlet of nearly 5oz. in weight found on Dutchlands (in the Wendover Award of 1794 Ditchlands) Farm in 1848 was either British or Saxon.

We are on sure ground in Edward the Confessor's reign (A.D. 1042), because Domesday Book gives the annual rent which Wendover as a Royal Manor paid that King, namely, £25: and comparing it with other Bucks towns we find Aylesbury paid the same, and Buckingham only £12.

Leofstan, Abbot of St. Albans, a familiar friend of Edward the Confessor, records that in his time the Chilterns (*Celtic*, either White Hills or Wooded Hills) were covered with woods and groves of beech so thick as to be almost impassable: and Camden, the historian, gives Leofstan credit for clearing a large portion of this timber as the district was a common receptacle and harbour for thieves, and, according to another authority, "a refuge for divers sorts of wild beasts, such as wolves, wild boars and wild bulls, robbers, outlaws and fugitives, to the great annoyance of all passengers." Such we can well believe it was, but, on the other hand, a splendid Royal hunting ground, of which we still have traces even in Wendover parish, as in "King's Ash," on the way to Lee, and in "Kingswood," in the same district. The latter so late as Edward I's. reign produced as part of the Vicar of Wendover's rights one cartload of Browze-wood every day in the year, so must have afforded fine covert in Saxon and Norman times.

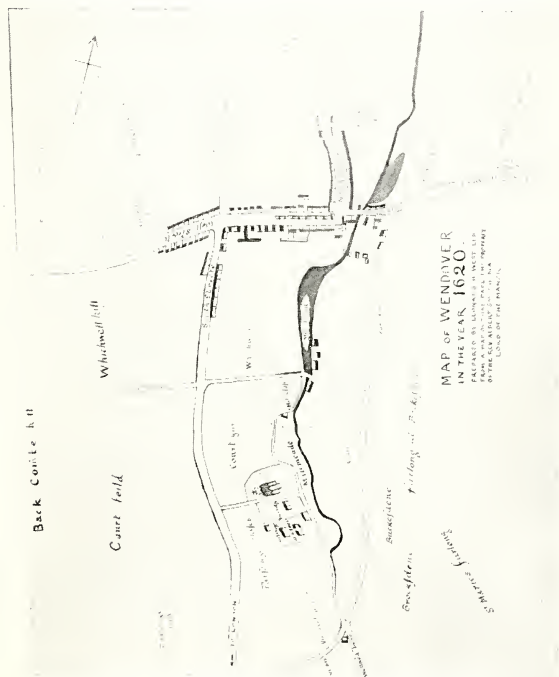
Passing to the Norman Conquest, our chief interest is in Domesday Book—the great Rate-book—so complete a record we are told that there was not "a hide or yard of land nor even an ox or cow or swine left that was not set down." Its primary object was fiscal, to tell the King how "to live of his own" or what Manors owed rent or lodging for the Court; but it was also a military register, a census of the population and survey of their means, employment, and condition, a topographical and genealogical dictionary and faultless record of all landed interests. The Commissioners were directed to ascertain by local inquiry the number of plough teams which could be profitably employed on

each estate, and the number actually employed, with other particulars as to mills, woods, live stock, and so on. It is claimed that assessment by the number of plough teams, generally eight oxen per team, was a fair and equal tax on the productive powers of the estate—that taxation of the team would in general indicate the value of the pasture on which the cattle were fed, the houses of the tenants and the remainder of the profits. Wendover (*Wandene*) was valued at 24 hides, the hide apparently being the portion of land which usually went with the homestead, and its extent may have varied; land for 26 ploughs, two mills of 10s. rent; woods for 2,000 hogs (the largest number in Bucks)—altogether £38, which was a large rise compared with the rent under Edward the Confessor.

The Manor of Wendover was the subject of a long series of Royal grants, forfeitures, and re-grants, which it would be tedious to trace in detail. Stephen made a grant to Hugh de Gurney; John the like, with payment of a fine to hold “without being disseized unless by judgment of the King’s Courts”; Henry III. to William de Fiennes—the Fiennes and Saye and Sele of North Oxford of to-day; Edward III. to Alice Perrers, the King’s favourite, and she to her brother William of Wykeham, who from a yeoman’s son became clerk, architect, Bishop, Lord Chancellor, and the pious founder of New College, Oxford, and Winchester College. Subsequently Alice fell from favour and William lost Wendover, which was next granted by Richard II. to the Duke of York on his marriage with the daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, but the Duke “being a very fat man and commanding in front” at the Battle of Agincourt (3 Henry V.) was “by much heat and crowd smothered to death.”

The ancient parish of Wendover seems to have been divided at a very early date into two Manors by the cutting out in its midst of a “Borough” with special privileges and duties, leaving the surrounding or out-

lying portions of the parish to constitute the Manor of "Wendover Forrens" of "Fforrence," meaning merely Wendover foreign.



WENDOVER BOROUGH extended northwards to the end of North Street, now called Aylesbury Street, about where the Wharf Road joins it, eastwards up East Street, now called Tring Road, about to Holly House or Cold Harbour, westwards up West Street, now Pound Street, to about where "The Shoulder of Mutton" stands, and southwards down South Street nearly as far as the site of the Baptist Chapel, and comprised some 30 to 40 acres almost covered with buildings, Bucksbridge apparently not being included. The sketch map of Wendover, prepared from a valuable map dated 1620 belonging to the Rev. Albert Smith, M.A., Lord of the Manor and Vicar of the Parish, may be of assistance in following the above description.

WENDOVER FORRENS consisted of detached farm houses and cottages interspersed with some dwellings of superior description chiefly southward of the Borough, and comprised:

- (1) The Hale and Manor of Wivelsgate to the east which included a portion of "Bottendown, vulgarly called Boddington Hill," from which "a scene of remarkable beauty" is to be had with the town of Wendover nestling at its foot.

The Hale must always be closely associated with the Colets (new spelt Collet), who certainly possessed it as early as the fifteenth century, and it was here that Sir Henry Colet was born about 1435 to 1440. He was his father's youngest son, and probably left Wendover when about 15 years of age to begin his London life as a mercer's apprentice, having several relatives of that calling. To subsequently become twice Lord Mayor of London, we know he must have prospered in his calling, and his marriage to a granddaughter of Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, also, no doubt, aided him in his career. He had no less than 22 children—11 sons and 11 daughters—all of whom died young except the eldest, John, born in 1465, but the exception is a considerable one, as John became in later life the famous Dean. Sir Henry's Arms are given in the *De*

Walden Library as three colts trippant and annulets, though it may be remarked that in the Dean's Arms, given in Dr. Lupton's *Life*, hinds take the place of colts. Sir Henry died in 1505, and his son, in addition to becoming Dean of St. Paul's and friend and teacher of Erasmus, was, of course, the founder of the School of St. Paul's. He was a lifelong celibate—possibly the death of all his numerous brothers and sisters tended to foster his preference for the unmarried state, further



DEAN COLET.

encouraged, Dr. Lupton suggests, by the tone of the time "when even a Sir Thomas More could say that there was but one woman a shrew, and every married man had got her; or in which the solitary *bon mot* preserved of old Judge More was that marrying was like dipping one's hand into a bag full of snakes, having amongst them one eel. 'Now, if a man should put his hand into this bag, he may chauce to light on the eel, but it is a hundred to one he shall be stung with a snake.' "

This, however, deals with one of the less favourable aspects of the Dean's character, and Dr. Lupton puts the value of his life and work not merely in its material results in the cause of education, nor in his writings or commentaries, but "in the example he left us of a noble life, a life of unappeasable striving after the highest."

Dean Colet appointed the Mercers' Company as Governors of St. Paul's School, and most of the Hale estate was eventually granted to the Company, a fact we are still reminded of by the name preserved in Mercers' Wood, though the ownership has ceased.

- (2) Backham (now Bacombe) Hill, to the West, already referred to;
- (3) Wendover Dean, and
- (4) The Manor of Martyns to the South—formerly belonging to the Dormers, then Dashwoods, and later Matthew Raper, a financial magnate and antiquarian, who built "a neat mansion" there—now Mayertorne Manor.

The relative position of these constituent portions of the Forrens may be seen from the sketch map of the entire parish given at the commencement of the book.

"Borough" and "Forrens," as already indicated, had their separate rights and "customs" as given on an ancient undated Roll, and these we will proceed to summarise and as far as possible explain.

The Borough had its:

- (a) Court Leete for view of frank pledge by which under Alfred's law all freemen of the Borough would be mutually pledged for the good behaviour of each other, and generally bound to attend upon jury and make presentments of crimes, nuisances, eaves-dropping, etc., within the Borough
- (b) Court Baron and Three Weeke Court.

This did not deal with criminal, but with civil

cases—pleas as to land and small personal claims. The freeholders were judges among themselves, and the Lord's Steward the Registrar.

The officers of the Borough were

- (i) Bailiff—a freeholder within the Borough acting for one year only. He would collect the Borough rents, and presumably perform the ministerial acts of the Court.
- (ii) Constable—would collect the “fifteenths,” or royal taxes, and the special subsidies, and get “acquittance” therefor, and also provide the King with provisions.
- (iii) The Doseonors, whom it is suggested were persons appointed by the Lord (or perhaps later chosen by lot or vote) to gather the “head-silver” of a dozen families; head-silver being a sort of tallage or serf-taxation probably originally imposed by the Lord in some supposed right of conquest and originally arbitrary in amount, but later compounded for a “ferm,” or fixed amount.
- (iv) Two Churchwardens, who were to “make the Church Ale and their book of Account.”

This reference to the Church Ale calls for some explanation of the old custom under which the parishioners contributed malt to the Church as a free offering, in addition to their tithes in kind. This was brewed, in the case of Wendover by the Churchwardens, in some cases by the Vicar, and on a stated festival, when the “ale was fairly old,” the parishioners repaired to the Churchyard or some other convenient place, and there celebrated the wake or feast of the dedication of the Church, even erecting booths, and each person paid according to his means some small sum, called “scot,” or “shot,” for the privilege of joining the festival. The proceeds appear to have gone, in some cases at least, to the Rector rather than to the Vicar. Though these festivals were originally piously intended, they

not unnaturally grew by degrees into great excesses in eating, drinking, and other irregularities, and were accordingly prohibited after the Reformation, but revived for a time by the *Book of Sports*.

Returning to the Wendover Borough officers, none of these were to have authority outside the Borough "save only for the reparacon of the Mother Church," which we know was common to the Forrens and situated outside the Borough.

The Forrens had like Courts and like officers, except that the Bailiff with charge of "foren rents" was appointed by patent, not annually; and with regard to the "head-silver" collected by the Dasonors it was complained that it was "a great charge to the forren, for where in the Borough they pay 3d., 2d., or 1d., the poorest in the forens pay yearly 6d." This may be accounted for by the head-silver for Wendover having been compounded for, and the amount divided between Borough and Forrens. Afterwards, as the Borough grew in size, the share to be there paid per head would diminish; while in the Forrens, with its more stationary population, it would remain heavy.

Again, the Forrens officers had no authority within the Borough, and from the old Roll, which appears to record an appeal to the Lord to support the rights of the "forreners," it is evident that they considered that they had a grievance if their position were compared with that of the Burgesses, and would strongly resent any breach by the latter of forrens customs. The Roll proceeds: "Also the said forreners doe find horse harnes to the King's warres by themselves All the aforesaid Customs of the Forens the said forens do keep without any advice or counsell of any of the burrough wherefore all we poor forens desireth your counsell whether they of the burrough may breake or anycent customes of the forren or no, for all we thinke in case the burrough doe breake them it will cause much trouble and businesse amongst us and other moe."

Tables alphabetically arranged giving the names of the tenants of " Wendover Borough or of the Village or Towne of Wendover " and of Wendover Fforrence respectively, are given on the Map of 1620 with the different classes of tenants and figures or other marks set against each name so as to show in whose tenure each tenement or close was.

Another important difference between the position of the tenants of the Borough and of the Forrens, of course, was that the former had a prescriptive right of sending two burgesses to Parliament; Forrens had no such right.

In Edward I.'s reign, more than two centuries before either Aylesbury or Buckingham sent Members, Wendover sent Walter de la Hale and John de la Burg to the Parliament which met at Lincoln in 1300—presumably Walter must have lived or held land at the Hale in addition to being a burgess. The lot of a chosen burgess, involving the lengthy and hazardous journey from Wendover to Lincoln, must, we may reflect, have been very different from that of our Members of Parliament of to-day, with the speed, safety, and comfort of a modern Railway.

In Edward II.'s reign in 1307 and 1308, the Borough sent two Members to Parliament which met at Northampton and Westminster respectively, but the right was then allowed to lapse—probably owing to the expense, as payment of their Members was a common law liability of the constituencies, and the Members took home their writs at the conclusion of the Session in order to obtain their pay, in the case of a Burgess 2s. per day. It has, indeed, been suggested that Members of Parliament of to-day still possess the legal right to this remuneration at the hands of their constituents, but whether presentation of such claim would favour the chances of re-election on a future occasion may be doubted!

As early as 1349 the right of holding a Fair on the festival of St. Barnabas (June 11) was granted to the Lord of the Manor, and Charters of 1403 and 1464 grant the right of holding a Market on Thursdays, and two Fairs on the festivals of St. Philip and St. James (May 1) and St. Matthew (September 21), now held May 13 and October 2.

There are two thirteenth century worthies of Wendover whom we may here notice before passing to a later period. Roger de Wendover is said to have been born at Wendover, became Abbot of St. Albans, and, what is of more lasting interest, wrote a work with the picturesque title of *Flowers of History of the World* from the Creation of the World to 1235 — the latter portion, from the landing of the Saxons to his own time, being specially valuable because largely gathered from original sources since perished.

Thomas Fuller's remarks (1662) upon Roger are very quaint. "Know reader," he says, "that the Kings always had a Monk to write the remarkables of their reigns. One addeth (I am sorry he is a forrainer and therefore of less credit at such distance) that their Chronicles were locked up in the King's Library so that neither in that King's nor his son's life they were ever opened. If so, they had a great encouragement to be impartial, not fearing a blow on their teeth though coming near to the heels of truth which in some sort were tied up from doing them any hurt."

Fuller also has some very caustic remarks upon the extent to which Matthew Paris was supposed to have made use of Roger's *Flowers* in his own History: "Matthew Paris doth quarter too heavily on the pains of Wendover, who, onely continuing his Chronicle for some years and inserting some small alterations, is entitled to the whole work. As a few drops of blood because of the deep hieu thereof discoloureth the whole bason of water into rednesse, so the few and short interpolations of Paris as the more noted author give a

denomination to the whole History though a fabrick built three stories high, whereof our Roger laid the foundation, finished the ground room and second loft, to which by Mr. Paris was added the garret."

Richard de Wendover ("a place well-known in this shire," says Fuller) cannot claim the same fame as Roger. He was, however, held in high esteem by Henry III. and became Bishop of Rochester, though not without a dispute on his appointment as to the sufficiency of his learning, his opponents alleging that he was "rude and unlearned," which involved an appeal to the Pope before the appointment was confirmed.

John Leland visited Wendover in the course of his Itinerary in Henry VIII.'s reign. Henry, in 1533 had commissioned him as "King's Antiquary" with power to search for records, MSS., and relics of antiquity in all the Cathedrals, Colleges, Abbeys, and Priories of England. He accordingly set out on a tour which lasted six years, and on his return in 1542 was appointed to the Rectory of Great Haseley, in Oxfordshire. He describes Wendover as a "pretty Through Fayre Towne, having two streets well builded with Tymbre. There is a Causey made almost through to pass betwixt Alesbury and it, els the way in wett tyme as in a lowe stiffe claye were tedious and ill to passe."

"The Townlette selfe of Wendover standeth partly upon the North-East Clifles of the Chilterne Hilles. The Residewe and North-West Part standeth in the Rootes of the Hilles. Looke as the Countrey of the Vale of Aylesbury, for the most part is clean barren of wood, as is Champaine, so is all the Chilterne well wooded and full of enclosures."

The Chilterns, we learn, were still infested with robbers and outlaws—more than a century later an old writer says, "Here, if you beat a bush, it's odds you'd start a thief"; but Wendover was never within the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, so cannot claim to have assisted in relieving Members of their Parliamentary burdens.

From Henry VII.'s reign to the Stuarts we find the Manor of Wendover granted by way of Dower to the Queens: Henry VII. granted it to his Queen Elizabeth and subsequently to Catherine of Arragon on her marriage to Arthur, Prince of Wales; Henry VIII. on his own marriage to Catherine again granted it to her; and subsequently it passed to his Queen, Jane Seymour. In 1563 Elizabeth granted it to Sir Francis Knolles, Knt., Vice-Chamberlain of her Household, and her beloved kinswoman (first cousin, a Boleyn) Lady Katherine, his wife," in fee farm rent for ever, at the accustomed rent (with other lands and rights) of £47 16s. 3¼d.

Sir Francis, who was an ancestor of Lord Knollys (better known as Sir Francis Knollys), our present King's faithful Secretary, was a zealous partisan of the Reformation in Edward VI.'s reign, and deemed it expedient to go abroad on Mary's accession, but returned when Elizabeth succeeded, and held numerous offices under her. It was he who was dispatched by Elizabeth to meet Mary Queen of Scots at Carlisle on her flight from Scotland; he there took charge of her and so commenced the custody which, first at Bolton Castle, North Yorks, later at Tutbury, Staffs, and finally at Fotheringhay Castle, Northampton, only ended with her execution at the last-named place nineteen years later.

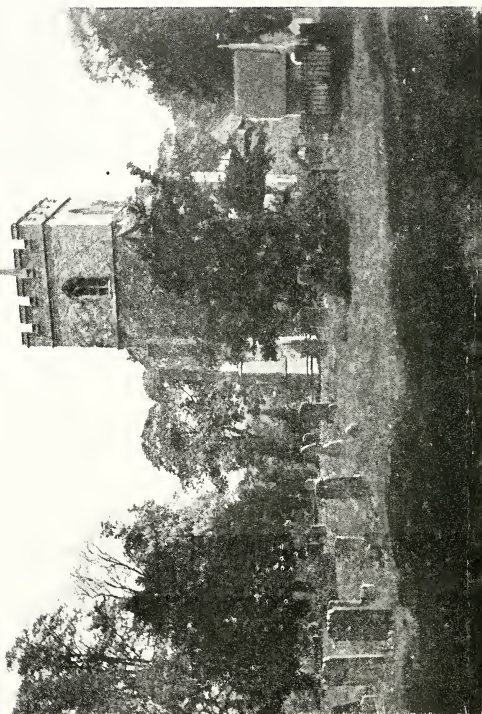
But to return to Wendover, we find that Mary's son James I. granted fee farm rents out of the Manor to his consort Queen Ann in augmentation of dower; and other grants of interest about this time were: 1542 and 1562. Demise of two Water-mills—one a "breast" mill, called upper, the other an "overshot" mill, called net'ier—for 21 years at 100s. and 2s. increase in the first case, and £6 in the second; which, it may be remembered, compare with a rent of 10s. in Domesday Book. The Upper Mill was apparently situated near Bucksbridge Farm, or rather the Sluice, as both Mill Mead and Mill Close on the Map of 1620 are there; and "breast" mill, I understand, is one which receives the

water at about half, or less than half, the height of the wheel, and accordingly is a "pitch back" wheel; the Lower Mill would be about where the present Mill is situated, and working forward on the same overshot principle. Sheahan, so recently as 1862, speaks of two flour mills turned by "a small pellucid stream," but he is clearly wrong in making the number plural, unless he includes "Shift Mill," which was lower down at the back of the present Recreation Ground. It is possible that when the Upper Mill was abandoned the Mill was moved to this site and called "Shift" for this reason, but even this Mill has long ceased to exist.

In 1544 there is a grant of lands of still familiar names, among others: Castle Ditch Meade, Well Head Croft, Grange lands, wood from Backcomb "for fowell" and all the warren of hares, coneys, partridges, and pheasants to Henry Bradshaw, who, I believe, was, or subsequently became, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and lived at Halton: whether he was related to William and Alice Bradshaw, to whose memory the brass on the south wall of Wendover Church is dedicated, I have been unable to ascertain, but their eldest son was named Henry.

Wendover Church—the mother church dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin—was doubtless founded by the Prior and Convent of St. Mary Overy, Southwark, in or before the reign of Henry III.; the Priory subsequently became St. Saviour's Church, and is now the Cathedral Church of Southwark. We have a complete list of Vicars of Wendover from Henry's reign (see Appendix A) but nave, tower, chancel arch, and south porch with its ball-flower and four-leaved flower ornaments, are in the Decorated style, and thus a little later than Henry III.'s reign.

Tradition tells us that it was not originally intended that the Church should stand where it now does, and that the foundations were actually laid on what



WENDOVER CHURCH FROM THE WEST

we know as Witch Hill (in the old map of 1620 Which Well), but that they were moved by Fairies or Witches to the present site, and no sooner replaced than again removed until the builders gave up the battle and completed the Church where it now stands. Perchance the Fairies deemed themselves to be acting in the spiritual interests of the "poor forreners" of Wendover Forrens by securing them a church in their own territory and somewhat more centrally placed for the whole Parish.

Very early in the history of the Church disputes arose between the Vicars on the one hand, and the Patrons of the living—the Prior and Convent of St. Mary Overy, Southwark—on the other hand, as to their respective rights to tithe and other ecclesiastical dues. The old record in the Register of the Diocese of Lincoln speaks of the dispute as "a very heavy contention to the manifest danger of their persons and the hurt of their souls," the Vicars having claimed that one-third of the tithe of corn belonged to them, the Prior and Convent that the whole was theirs; but they appear to have compromised the dispute in a very Christian spirit, it being decreed by the Bishop, saving in all things the Episcopal Right and Dignity of the Church of Lincoln, that for the future the whole of the Tithe of Corn, Hay and Mills should go to the Prior and Convent, and that Altarage and all other Tithes or Rights should belong to the Vicar. The enumeration of the rights thus accorded to the Vicar, with the valuation thereof taken before the Archdeacon, is of much interest: "32 acres of the Damain land of the said Church which may be sown there yearly, each of which is worth 6d. There are also 7 acres of Meadow and Pasture each of which is worth *communibus annis*, 16 pence. Likewise the Quit Rents of the Tenants of the Church together with their Labour for 13 days in Harvest and the Cocks and Hens which they may account for are worth 20s. per ann. And that one Cart Load of Browze-wood to be got every day in the year in Kingswood, Browze-Wood aforesaid is worth 30s. 4d. per ann. Likewise the Pas-

turage of 4 Cows and two Head of young Cattle with the Damain Herds in the said Pasture of Wendover is worth 3s. per ann. Likewise the Tithe of the Fishery, Warrens and Teazles is worth 6s. annually." The record concludes with the fact that the Ordinance was "executed and delivered at the Old Temple in London the third of the Ides (the 11th day) of December in the year of our Lord 1293 and of the 14th of our Pontificate."

A copy of this is entered in the Parish Register of 1626, and records the satisfactory fact that since Edward I.'s reign the Vicar of the Parish had uninterruptedly enjoyed every kind of Tithe except those of Hay and Corn.

Previous to the Reformation Wendover Church seems to have held a position of much importance in the neighbourhood. We learn that in December, 1506, about the time when the Amersham burnings were becoming so notorious, that divers persons living at Chesham were abjured for speaking against idolatry and superstition, then taken and compelled, some to bear faggots, some thrust into Monasteries and spoiled clean of all their goods, and some compelled to make pilgrimage to the Rood Cross of Wendover. Evidence of this Rood exists to the present day in the doorway above the pulpit, which led to the Rood Loft, and the perforated Rood Screen with mullions was not removed until about 1842.

The Church originally possessed a Sanctus bell. These bells were used in the Romish Church to call attention to the more solemn parts of the service of the Mass, and particularly to prepare the congregation for the elevation of the Host. Though still preserved at Wendover so late as 1639, the bell was probably not used during Divine Service.

When Henry VIII. suppressed the Monasteries, the rights of the Prior and Convent of Southwark, who had presented the Vicars up to that time, passed to him,

and in 1543 he granted for £360 the Rectory Improprate of St. Mary Overy with the Advowson of the Vicarage and Parsonage house, and also messuages and lands in Wendover late parcel of the said Monastery to Henry Bradshaw.

In 1557 Philip and Mary having obtained a surrender of previous grant, gave the Right of Patronage of the Church of Wendover to the Reverend Father in Christ Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln, his heirs and successors in pure and perpetual alms; and in the same year they granted to George London, Gent., the Chapel of St. John. The full title of the incumbent of Wendover originally was Vicar of the Church of St. Mary and Minister of the Chapel of St. John. The Chapel apparently stood in the Tring Road about where Holly House is situated, and we are told came to be used by Dissenters at one time, and later the Liturgy of the Church of England was again introduced, and the congregation far exceeded that attending the Parish Church. Eventually the Chapel fell into disuse, and was taken down to afford a site for an infant school, which existed there within the memory of living inhabitants.

There is an interesting stone stoup or holy water basin built into the wall of Bosworth House, in High Street, and this may have been originally part of the Chapel of St. John removed here on the latter being pulled down; or it is possible that a Monastic House may at one time have stood where Bosworth House and adjoining houses now stand, and the stoup have been a part of that, but I think this is very unlikely, as there is strong evidence that the Monastic residence—*personage, parsonage*—occupied the site of the present Manor House.

It is not very easy to trace the various grants of this period in respect of Wendover Church, and their effect. Elizabeth and James I. made demises of the Rectory and Church of Wendover and other rights (specially excluding the Advowson of the Vicarage). In

1606 we find Edmund Hampden, of Wendover, a cousin of the Patriot, devising by Will (among other properties) the Rectory of Wendover; and in Charles II.'s reign we find grants of, in one case, "the Rectory and Parsonage of Wendover and a capital messuage there," and in another case, "a messuage and parsonage house of Wendover and the profits of the Chancel of the Parish Church of Wendover" together with certain lands at Ellesborough, and so on.

On the valuable Map of 1620, already referred to, the "Vicaridge" is marked to the South of the Church, where we know it continued to stand until well on into the last Century, and beyond the Vicarage, about where the Manor House now stands, we find the "Parsonage" marked; and as we are accustomed to treat Vicarage and Parsonage as synonymous, it may be well to attempt some



THE OLD VICARAGE, AND THE CHURCH.

(From a sketch in the possession of Mr. James Stevens.)

explanation. The old Case of 1293 informs us that the Prior and Convent of Southwark were "seized of the said Church of Wendover to their own use"—they were originally the owners of the Church and the lands attached thereto and the various rights arising thereout, and the Prior or representative of the Convent as the

persona ecclesie in full possession of all the rights of the Church, would, if and when in Wendover, reside in a Personage or Parsonage. We know, further, that the Prior and Convent, as early as Henry III.'s reign, deputed to another—a Vicar—the performance of their spiritual duties in the parish, and such Vicar would have his place of residence—the Vicarage.

The Prior and Convent, in addition to retaining the right of presenting subsequent Vicars to the living, also possessed Rectorial rights entitling them to the Great Tithes, namely, those in respect of Corn, Hay, and Mills (and, as the Case shows us, the whole of such Tithes) and the Parsonage and Parsonage lands; while the Vicar took the Small Tithes and other rights set out in detail in the Case. On Henry VIII. abolishing the Monasteries, all the rights previously possessed by the Prior and Convent passed to him, namely, the right of presenting to the benefice (in legal terms, the Advowson of Vicarage), the Parsonage and lands, and the Rectory or right to the Great Tithes. These were granted for value by Henry and subsequent Sovereigns to Henry Bradshaw and other private persons — the Advowson becoming vested in the Bishop of Lincoln, and now in the Lord Chancellor in right of the Crown; and the Parsonage and Rectorial rights in the Hampdens and others, until finally by the Enclosure Acts of 1771 and 1794, greatly to the benefit of the residents and occupiers of Wendover, almost the whole of the lands in the Parish were freed (1) from Great Tithes, and in lieu thereof certain uninclosed lands awarded to Viscount Hampden and others possessing the Rectorial rights, and (2) from Small Tithes, and in lieu thereof certain uninclosed lands awarded to the Vicar as glebe. Among the old enclosures or lands enclosed long previous to this Award, and at its date belonging to Viscount Hampden, then Lord of the Manor, were what the old Map calls the Parsonage and Parsonage lands (in one case actually spelt thereon Personage), and these are naturally now called the Manor House and Park.

In order to complete the ecclesiastical history of all Denominations in the Parish, it may here be mentioned that the Baptist Chapel is also relatively ancient, the grant by John Baldwin, Lord of the Manor of Wendover Forrens, dating back to 1649, and the original Chapel being the oldest but one in Bucks. The Congregational Chapel which preceded the existing one only dated back about a century.

To leave the ecclesiastical and return to the civil history of the Parish, though the Verneys owned lands in Bucks from Henry III.'s reign, they do not appear as Wendover owners before the Tudors. In 1548 we find Dorothy Verney, widow, granting lands in Wendover Forrens late of Ralph Verney to Henry Bradshaw; and in a grant of 1553 Edmund Verney (probably the father of "The Standard Bearer") is mentioned. They do not appear to have owned any in either Wendover or Wendover Forrens in 1620, and Dame Mary Wolley, widow, was then Lady of the Manor. For these facts we may refer to the Tables on the Map of 1620.

We have noticed that one of the Hampdens was interested in Wendover as early as James' I.'s reign, but it was probably not until about 1660, some years after John Hampden's death, that the family became Lords of the Manor.

John was born in London in 1594 and succeeded to his father's estates in infancy. For some years he was at Thame Grammar School, and subsequently went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where his attainments gained him some reputation. Thence he went to the Inns of Court, where, an old historical description of the County says: "Though often the companion of the gay and dissipated, he acquired a considerable knowledge of the laws. The vivacity and cheerfulness of his conversation became the means of his attaining an extensive acquaintance, but the peculiar vigour of his understanding remained concealed till the period when he contested the legality of the rate called Ship-money."

For some years he appears to have devoted himself to the pursuits and enjoyments of country life, and is said to have had "an exceeding prepenseness to field sports," of which a hunting lodge about where Wendover Lodge now stands may be cited as a local illustration.

But James I. was pushing his theory of absolute authority and divine commission further and further, and Parliament showing more and more of a spirit of resistance to his illegal demands and exactions, with the result that from 1614 to 1621 he governed without any Parliament at all, and it was only the pressure of absolute want of money for the public service that compelled him to summon one in January, 1621, when Hampden was first returned to Parliament for Gram-pound, in Cornwall, a borough with about 50 voters. He proved himself a diligent and active member, but through its opposition to James the Parliament was dissolved in less than a year.

It was about this time that Hampden, perceiving the importance of increasing the number of members in the House who would check the King's demands, instructed William Hakevill, "a shrewd and industrious lawyer," who had apparently acted for him in other affairs in the County, and lived at Bucksbridge, Wendover, to take steps for the restoration of the Parliamentary representation of the borough (as also of Amersham and Marlow); and Hakevill, having discovered writs for Wendover and the other boroughs in the Tower of London, petitioned Parliament that their ancient rights and franchises might be restored. King James declared that he was "troubled with too great a number of burghesses already," and opposed, but on May 16, 1621, the House held that the prescriptive right was established and directed writs to issue.

The election took place in 1623, and Hampden ("who beareth the charge") was returned for Wendover

with Sir Alexander Unton, of Chequers; Hakevill being one of the members returned for Amersham. Parliament was dissolved in May, 1624, and the King died in the following March.

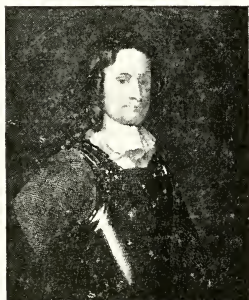
Hampden was again elected for Wendover in the first Parliament of Charles I., June, 1625, with Richard Hampden, probably his brother.

He was again elected in 1626, and on this occasion took with him as colleague in the representation of Wendover Sir Sampson Darell, who was son of Sir Marmaduke Darell, of Fulmer and married "Elizabeth daughter and heire of Christopher Hampden, of Wendover in the Countie of Buck." There is a very fine Jacobean tomb to Sir Marmaduke Darell (spelt Dariel) with effigies, in the round, of his sons, their wives and families, in Fulmer Church. Parliament was again dissolved in June, and the King resorted to a general forced loan. Hampden gave Charles a foretaste of his resolute character, and refused to pay, saying "that he would be content to lend as well as others, but feared to draw upon himself that curse in Magna Charta, which should be read twice a year, against those that offend it." The Privy Council accordingly committed him to the Gate House, and later to Hampshire.

Charles, again pressed for money, summoned another Parliament in 1628, and Hampden and others were released, and he again returned for Wendover. The Petition of Right was passed in June, and the next Session Parliament refused supplies till grievances had been discussed, and passed the Remonstrance. Charles responded by dissolving Parliament and dismissing its members as "vipers"; and from 1629 to 1640 he again resorted to absolute government.

Hampden, after having become one of the foremost leaders in the Parliamentary campaign against Charles' exactions, had retired to Great Hampden before the dissolution of 1629; and we meet with a rather curious

example, with a local bearing, of the expedients Charles was resorting to about this period to annoy the gentlefolk of Bucks among whom he was finding such staunch opponents of his exactions. In 1636 the Earl of Northampton issued a warrant enjoining all Justices of the Peace to assist "William Roads of Middle Claydon and Ralph Hill of Wendover (whose name is to be found in the Tables of Freeholders of 1620), servants of Sir



Jeffampden

Edmund Verney, Knight Marshall of his Majesty's howshold to take and seize to his Majesty's vse, and in his Majesty's name, within all places within the said County of Buckingham, as well within franchises and libertys as without, such and so many greyhounds, both dogs and bitches, in whose custody soever they be, as the said William Roads and Ralph Hill shall think meete and convenient for his Majesty's

disport and recreacion." And the Earl also authorises and deposes them "to seize and take away all such greyhounds, beagles, or whippets as may anywise be offensive to his Majesty's game and disport."

In 1635 writs for Ship-money were extended to the inland counties and towns, and the Bucks writ ran: "To the Sheriff of our County of Bucks, the bailiff and burgesses of the borough and parish of Buckingham, the mayor, bailiff and burgesses of Chipping Wiccombe, and the good men in the said boroughs, parishes, and their members; and in the towns of Agmondesham, Wendover and Great Marlow, and in all other boroughs, villages, hamlets and others places in the said county of Bucks, greeting: Because we are given to understand that certain thieves, pirates and sea robbers, as well Turks as others, confederated together, wickedly take away and despoil the ships, goods, merchandises, etc. We firmly enjoin you as you love us and our honour, as also under the forfeiture of all you can possibly forfeit to us, that you cause to be fitted out one ship of war of the burden of 450 tons with men, as well skilful officers, as able and experienced mariners, a hundred and fourscore at least; as also with sufficient quantity of cannon, muskets, gunpowder, pikes and spears, and other arms necessary for war with double tackling, etc., etc., and have same brought into Portsmouth before 1st March and from that time provide wages, etc., or in lieu £4,500 to be levied upon the inhabitants."

The defaulters in Bucks were numerous with Hampden at the head of them in respect of land at Prestwood in the parish of Stoke Mandeville, he having refused, it is said in Great Kimble Church, to pay the assessment. A warrant to answer for arrears was issued against poor Sir Peter Temple, the High Sheriff, who was ill at Stowe, and who writes a pathetic letter to his mother describing his troubles. The King now obtained the opinions of twelve Judges upon a one-sided statement of the case as to the legality of Ship-money, and naturally

obtained favourable replies from the majority. Wentworth, not content, wanted similar authority as regards the Army, saying that otherwise "the Crown seems to me to stand upon one leg at home, and to be considerable by halves to foreign princes abroad."

The exaction of Ship-money after this declaration of its legality was even more generally and systematically opposed. Hampden's case was tried in the Exchequer Chamber before the whole bench in 1637-8. Eight judges decided for the Crown and four for Hampden. The first for Hampden—Croke—it is said, was preparing a judgment against his own conscience and convictions for the Crown, when he was reproached for his baseness by his wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Bennett, Lord Mayor of London, who exhorted him to do his duty, and she prevailed. He was a son of Sir John Croke, who had been Sheriff and Member for Buckinghamshire, and was a grandson of Sir Alexander Unton, of Chequers, of Elizabeth's reign.

After this judgment and other acts of tyranny and cruelty, many persons made preparations to emigrate to America, and it is said that both Hampden and Cromwell were actually on board a vessel in the Thames when an order by the King in Council was issued, prohibiting such emigration and detaining the vessels. If true, how history might have been altered! But the incident, so far as Hampden and Cromwell are concerned, is said to rest on no reliable authority.

Insurrection in Scotland followed, and Charles, after patching up a truce with the Scotch, found it necessary to at last re-summon Parliament in April, 1640, and Hampden was elected with Arthur Goodwyn, of Upper Winchendon, for the County of Bucks—Wendover being represented by Sir William Pye (one of Hampden's daughters married Sir Robert Pye) and Robert Croke.

Hampden was from this time strenuously engaged in the business of the House, and except in hasty inter-

vals from Council and camp never again returned to Great Hampden, but lived chiefly in London in Grays Inn Lane. The same struggle between King and Commons was renewed, and on 5th May, 1640, this Parliament (The Short) was also dissolved.

Owing to the progress of the Scotch invasion, Charles was, however, in November again compelled to summon a Parliament (The Long), which marked the final collapse of his attempts to govern without Parliament. Hampden was once more, and for the last time, returned for Wendover, with Robert Croke, but, being also elected for the County, chose to sit for the latter, and Thomas Fountaine was returned for Wendover in his place.

In the following year Charles preferred charges of High Treason against Hampden and four other members, and attempted to arrest them in the House, whence they had escaped. We have Sir Ralph Verney's vivid description of the incident, he being member for Aylesbury and present in the House at the time. Four thousand Buckinghamshire freeholders, after this incident, rode up to Westminster to show their affection for the cause of Parliament and the person of Hampden, their member. They were thanked by the House, told that Parliament was sufficiently guarded by the City, and that they might return home "till further occasion" of which they should be duly informed. A deputation of about ten of them proceeded to Windsor to deliver a petition to the King that Hampden and the others "may enjoy their just privileges of Parliament."

Events now moved rapidly. The Queen, in February, 1642, left for Holland, really to raise money and procure aid from foreign regiments; and the King went North to place himself at the head of the Marquis of Newcastle's levies, arriving in York March 19th. In the following month he attempted to seize the magazine of Hull, but failed.

In the meantime Parliament was making preparations on the other side, and in June the whole Lieutenancy of the County of Bucks, thirty-two in number, including among them Sir Ralph Verney, Sir Richard Piggott, Sir William Drake, Thos. Fountaine, Esq. (M.P. for Wendover), Edmund West, Esq., a freeholder of Wendover Forrens, assembled in Aylesbury to make arrangements for collecting money in the County, levying and training the Militia, forming a garrison at Aylesbury, and managing generally the public affairs of the district; and they appointed Philip, Lord Wharton, Lord Lieutenant.

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In August Charles marched South and unfurled his standard at Nottingham, marking the commencement of the Civil War. In less than a month from this time the Parliamentary forces throughout England amounted to about 25,000. Hampden raised his Green - coats — “ the parishes and hundreds, often with their preachers at their head, mustered at their market - houses to march forth to training . . . arms and accoutrements of the most grotesque fashion now left the walls, where, from the time of the Wars of the two Roses, they had hung as hereditary trophies, in the manor-houses, the churches, and the cottages of the yeomen.” Cattle were driven in to the towns, the corn still green was reaped to swell the unripe produce of the guarded granaries or as forage for the horses, or to save it from the grasp of the enemy, and the owners followed to the towns, and increased the garrisons.

The calls upon Hampden took him far beyond the limits of Bucks, where Lord Wharton, Arthur Goodwyn (Hampden's colleague), Mr. West, Mr. Bulstrode, Mr. Tirrell, and Mr. Richard Grenville, the High Sheriff, were in command of cavalry regiments, and the County offered £30,000 for the public service, receiving the thanks of Parliament through its members Hampden and Goodwyn.

In the course of the next few weeks we find Hampden making a successful attack from Watlington on Royal forces at Ascot, thence to take command at Northampton, subsequently to the relief of Coventry, and then to Leicester, to the alarm of denuded Northampton, where, we are told, the women worked with the men day and night, throwing up earth from the ditch and forming ramparts. In addition Hampden journeyed to and from London to hold counsel with the Parliament and to assist at the Committee of Public Safety.

In September, 1642, he had command at Aylesbury, where the magazines of the County lay, and on the 16th he took part in a skirmish near Aylesbury, in which many were slain, the King's troops repulsed, and prisoners sent to Wycombe and Buckingham. A requisition was sent for further troops to reinforce the Aylesbury garrison, Hampden himself following the enemy to Oxford and Worcestershire. In October was fought the battle of Edgehill, where Sir Edmund Verney, the King's Standard Bearer, was killed; but otherwise with no very decisive result, each party claiming a victory. It is said that after dark some of the Parliamentary troops lighted a fire on Beacon Hill, near the battlefield, that this was seen by some shepherds on Beacon Hill, near Ivinghoe, some thirty miles distant, who, upon communication with their minister, "a godly and well-affected person," fired the beacon there, which was seen at Harrow-on-the-Hill, and thence the news carried to London—a total distance of sixty miles with only two intermediate fires.

While Hampden was thus engaged in Northampton and Warwick, the Bucks forces, under the Lieutenants of the County, were apparently concentrated at Amer-sham, and on the 30th October we find a letter from Lord Wharton with the Parliamentary forces, in which he says it "greeves" him to hear that their County "should be putt into so great distraktion," and suggests their moving a little nearer to Uxbridge, which was to be the rendezvous for a convoy of great strength for

Essex, the commander of the Parliamentary forces; and Hampden writes next day: "To my noble friends Colonel Bulstrode, Captain Grenvil, Captain Tyrell, Captain West, or any of them. Gentlemen,—The army is now at Northampton, moving every day nearer to you. If you disband not, we may be a mutual succour to each other; but if you disperse, you may make yourselves and your county a prey."

The same day Aylesbury was again attacked. The garrison having apparently been moved down to Amersham, Prince Rupert, with some thousands of horse and foot from Oxford and Banbury on foraging expeditions, seized the opportunity of taking Aylesbury, and after one day free quarters in the town, during which the inhabitants suffered all sorts of outrage, he received intelligence of the approach of a brigade of Parliamentary troops from Stony Stratford, and leaving some troops in the town, marched out meeting the Parliamentary troops near the brook about half a mile out on the Buckingham Road, where a sharp and desperate conflict took place with the result that Rupert was driven back in confusion towards the town, and the townsmen rushing upon his rear with whatever arms they could obtain, he retreated towards Thame after losing some hundreds of men. Only 60 or 70 years ago, when some labourers were digging pits for gravel near the old ford, they came upon more than 200 skeletons buried here, which were removed to Hardwick Churchyard by the instructions of Lord Nugent, who then lived at The Lilies near that village.

Hampden next joined the Bucks troops at Uxbridge, the King's troops having reached Colnbrook in the south of the county, in his attempt on London. Negotiations for peace fell through, partly owing to the King's treachery in continuing hostilities pending the truce; and though he had to retire from the attack on London, he subsequently held Reading, Oxford, and Brill; and in December nearly 5,000 of his horse with artillery

made a descent on Aylesbury, but finding it well fortified, moved rapidly by the lanes across the Chilterns by Penn to Wycombe, where, however, his forces were repulsed with considerable loss.

In March, 1643, negotiations for peace were again opened at Oxford, but with like result to the previous attempt; and while they were still pending Prince Rupert had recommenced his incursions into Bucks, and on the 13th appeared with more than 6,000 men at Stone with view to attacking Aylesbury; but he had been forestalled by Hampden, and was compelled to retire—not, however, before he had detached Lord Carnarvon (who was a freeholder in Wendover Forrens and Lord of the Manor of Wendover Dean) to raid Wendover. We read that Carnarvon's troops plundered the town of all goods and household stuff; "they have taken and driven away all their (*i.e.*, Wendover's) horses, beasts, and sheep, they have not spared those who are accounted their own friends, they have spoiled and torn in pieces the insides of divers fair houses, and besides the corn they spent upon their horses, they spoiled very much upon the ground, and threw it about the fields, and what goods they could not carry away they cut in pieces and threw about the fields and highways as they went. They have cut in pieces their horse harness and things belonging to the plough. They swear horrid oaths that we shall have no harvest this year. How miserably did they use some families, in some were a wife with 7 children, in others more, that had neither meat, bedding, nor anything left in their houses but bare walls; persons of good esteem and ability the day before, but by these inhuman crew robbed of all, and left to the charitable relief of others." Carnarvon had only recently had his own house at Wing sacked by the Parliamentary troops, which may have been some excuse for his action here. He next moved towards Chesham, meeting and routing some of the Parliament's horse, whom he drove down to Great Missenden, and joined Rupert that night, probably at Thame. He was killed in the Battle of

Newbury in the following September. It is said that he had charged and routed a body of the enemy's horse and was coming carelessly back when one of some scattered troopers recognised him, ran him through the body with a sword, and he died within an hour. He was a Dormer, and undoubtedly one of the bravest and best on the Royal side—Charles himself is credited with having said that Carnarvon was the finest gentleman he ever saw. He left a son, for whom Sir Ralph Verney subsequently became trustee, but on the son's death in 1709 the Earldom became extinct.

To return to the incidents of March 13th in 1643, the Vicar's wife at Wendover, Mrs. Armitage, who was probably an old lady, appears very wisely from the point of view of her own and her spouse's interests, to have baked apple-pies for Carnarvon's troops, but, alas! pressing engagements elsewhere called them away too soon, and the Parliament's soldiers ate the pies, which had been intended for other mouths! This did not save Mr. Armitage, who had held the living for nearly thirty years, from the suspicion of Royalist sympathies, and he was accordingly in the same year ejected in favour of Samuel Wells, presumably of Roundhead leanings, who again in 1660 made way for a nominee of Charles II.

The King's headquarters remained at Oxford, whence Prince Rupert made raids upon the defenceless villages of the South of that County and the Chiltern Hills. It was on such a foray that he started on Saturday afternoon, on the 17th of June, 1643, when trumpets sounded through the streets of Oxford and the cavalry were called to muster and parade. These, with the foot, forming a body of about 2,000 men, crossed the Thame at Chiselhampton Bridge, and made for the London and Oxford road with intent of seizing a valuable convoy which had been dispatched by Parliament to their forces at Thame. At 3 o'clock on Sunday morning Rupert attacked and dispersed a small force at Postcombe, and then with his cavalry seized Chinnor, slaughtering or

capturing nearly all the troops there, and firing the village. The sun had now risen, and the Parliamentary troops on the Wycombe side had been roused and were joined by Hampden, who had "lain" that night at Watlington or Pyrton. He dispatched word to the Parliamentary troops at Thame to cut off Rupert's retreat by Chiselhampton Bridge, and in the meantime with the troops at hand vigorously attacked Rupert so as to hamper and delay his retreat, coming up to him in the open country near the village of Chalgrove; and here it was he received two carbine balls, which shattered his shoulder, and he had to ride off the field, first making for Pyrton and then changing his course for Thame—the scene of his school days—which, after with difficulty crossing a flooded stream, he reached, only to die in great agony six days later, and was buried with military honours at his ancestral home of Great Hampden amid scenes of the deepest grief.

Some doubt has been thrown upon the actual cause of his death, one account being that one of his own pistols, given him by his son-in-law, exploded and caused the wound from which he died; it being reported that he was in the habit of leaving his pistols to "a raw serving boy" to load, that this lad put in a fresh charge without examining whether the previous charge had been used or not, and that the other pistol was actually found quite filled up to the top with two or three super-numerary charges; but Lord Nugent discredits this account.

The war still dragged on. In November, 1645, the Royal troops again raided Wendover, as also Ellesborough, Stoke Mandeville, the Kimbles, and the Risboroughs, carrying away and detaining some of the principal inhabitants till ransomed; and a few days later two regiments of Parliamentary horse were sent into Bucks to prevent further such raids. But the beginning of the end had come. The Battle of Naseby had already been fought, and four years later Charles was beheaded, and England declared a Commonwealth under Cromwell.

In 1645, while the County was still strongly garrisoned with troops, the Commons had ordered new elections, which the Bucks people objected to as not free by reason of the garrisons, and we learn that Wendover's member, Thomas Fountaine, "carried himself very high." He died soon afterwards, and Edmund West, whom we have already heard of as a leader in the Parliamentary forces, was elected in his place, but in 1647 was returned for the County, and Richard Ingoldsbey became member for Wendover; while on the other member, Robert Croke, becoming "disabled to sit"—possibly on account of Royalist tendencies—Thomas Harrison took his place. The Bucks members, however, do not appear to have sat in Oliver Cromwell's Parliaments, though William Hampden and John Baldwyn were returned for Wendover, under Richard Cromwell, in 1658. Richard Ingoldsbey was a connection of Oliver Cromwell, and a cousin of John Hampden. On the commencement of the Civil War he became a Captain in Hampden's regiment, and his connections caused him to be held in much confidence by Parliament, for which he did gallant service. He was one of those who signed the death warrant of Charles I., and on Cromwell becoming Protector was one of his chief confidants, and subsequently made one of his Lords of Parliament. After the fall of the Commonwealth he displayed extraordinary ingenuity in getting into the good graces of Charles II., and was actually instituted by the King a Knight of the Bath on his coronation; he subsequently sat for Aylesbury for many years, and was buried at Hartwell.

After the sore trials she had passed through, Wendover doubtless found these to be calm and prosperous days. In 1653 we find Sir Ralph Verney writing to his faithful steward Roads, at Claydon: "Questionlesse there is white wheat enough about Wendover and Misenenden, any baker will tell you, and if there be, write to any discreete, honest man there of your acquaintance to buy you half a quarter of the Best and Whitest to make Bread," and, like a thrifty owner, he adds, "when

any cartes come up from Claydon they will carry home for a small matter, and that will be cheaper than to send a horse and man purposely." A dozen years later Wendover's case was not so happy, for we learn the Plague came, and to the sad misfortune of Ellesborough a wandering dog is said to have carried it from Wendover there, and the Rector to have fallen a victim to its ravages.

We have spent much time in following the course of national events in the first half of the 17th century so far as they affected Wendover; we may now turn to a few illustrations of local rather than national government, and it is of some interest to find that in 1630, during the period in which Charles I. was attempting to govern without a Parliament, a Commission of Charitable Uses issued to inquire into the user of a "Church House," which stood where the Literary Institute now stands. It appears from this that the Churchwardens, on behalf of the Town, paid to John Collet £8 for a tenement called the Church House, to be enjoyed by the Inhabitants, that some parts were "divided into shoppes and letten to divers people, and that the Upper part was employed to teach Schollars" till about 1613, when the Inhabitants, having revived an ancient Free Market, "did cause the said Church House to be laid open, and converted the lower part of the same into a Market House, and extended the upper part for a Common School to teach children of the Parish of Wendover, and that ever since Richard Plaistow, Bailiff unto the Lady Wake in respect of her Mannour of Wendover, hath by usurpation, namely, in setting up stallgeers and otherwise, taken the profit and benefits of the said House, and there ought anciently to be paid 10d. yearly and no more to the Lord or Lady of the said Manor."

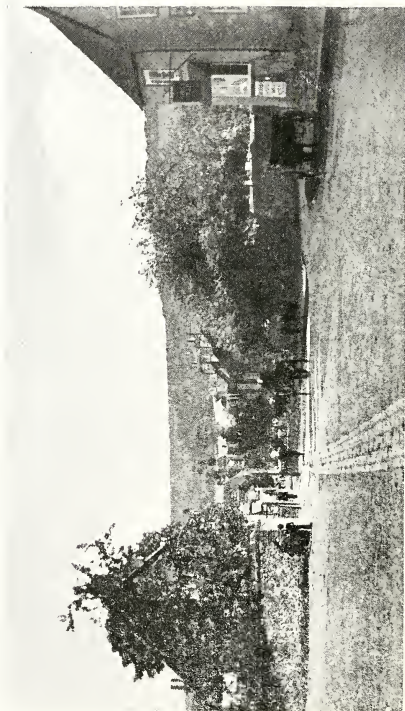
Also that in 1615 for enlarging the Church House, John Collet and nine others did contract with the said Richard Plaistow "for one parcell of ground in length

30ft. and in breadth 14ft., at a rent of 5d., and that the said Richard after the contract did assign the ground to be built upon for Charitable Uses."

And the Commisioners decree that the said Church House, otherwise called the Market House, otherwise the Town House and ground, assigned and contracted for with Richard Plaistow, shall henceforward remain to be taken and adjudged to belong to the Town of Wendover for the Charitable uses and purposes: and that the Churchwarden and Overseer shall from time to time make an account to the Vicar before the rest of the Parishioners in every Tuesday in Easter Week after evening Prayer."

Thus the rights of the inhabitants were maintained. Dame Mary Wolley apparently sold her Manor to Lady Wake soon after 1620; Richard Plaistow was probably Bailiff to both, and he was a Demesne tenant in Wendover Forrens. A writer of about 1800 describes the appearance of the Market House as "particularly mean," and Lipscomb speaks of "the old unsightly market house built of timber and plaster in the style of Henry VIII.'s time." It stood on pillars, and was open below, something after the style of the old Market House still existing in Amersham, the upper story being used as a school when the House was pulled down nearly fifty years ago, having thus existed much in its original condition for more than two centuries. By the generosity of the Lord of the Manor, other school premises were provided, and a Market House and Clock Tower erected on the other side of the street. Modern taste, by the way, would probably have led us to hesitate before condemning a Market House built of timber and plaster in the style of Henry VIII.'s time as either "particularly mean" or unsightly, and it is to be regretted that no print of the old House exists.

In May, 1642, we find the Parishioners of Wendover petitioning the House of Commons that "eight Orthodox Divines being beneficed men in the same county, able



HIGH STREET AND CLOCK TOWER.

preachers and of good conversation," may have liberty "freely without any interruption to set up and keep a lecture every Thursday weekly" in the Parish Church of Wendover, and the House granted the prayer of its humble Petitioners. Parliament at this date under strong Puritan influence had constituted itself the zealous protector of the Protestant faith, and the above Petition and order are probably examples of the steps it took to guard against the illicit introduction of anything savouring of Papistry.

We next come to two or three cases of a more civil character. There were no Rural District Councils in those days, but at a Court Leet held in 1656 the jury present that "the several backsides" of four houses "by reason of the filth, etc., are a newsance to passengers," and it is ordered that the holders cleanse their said several backsides and remove the nuisance.

At a Court held in October, 1666, it was ordered that any of the inhabitants of Wendover Forrens "shall have free access unto the Cage and Stocks within the Burrowe of Wendover, and to put their prisoners into the said Cage and Stocks as often as they have occasion so to do without let or hindrance of the inhabitants of Wendover Burrowe upon pain for any that shall hinder them to forfeite, etc." The Cage is remembered by old inhabitants of the Town as built of brick and situated in the open Market House, as also were the Stocks. The occasional appearance of victims in these places of detention, or the getting of them there, appears to have added considerably to the excitements of Wendover and to the amusement of the juvenile portion of its inhabitants.

In October, 1679, a Court Baron was held by Richard Hampden, Esq. (who would be second son and heir of John, his eldest son having died in his father's lifetime), when the jury presented that Henry Short, Miller, had not a sufficient way leading from the Town towards the Parish Church, and it is ordered that he

amend the said way called the Church Way before Christmas, under penalty. Also that the aforesaid Henry had not made a sufficient bridge in the way called "the market way," leading towards a place called Mill Mead, and it is ordered that he make a sufficient bridge. The Church Way, of course, still exists, and, no doubt, much in the same position as at the above date, but what the market way, as distinct from the Church way, was, I have failed to discover. As may be seen from the Sketch Map of Wendover, Mill Mead was near the Church and what I surmise was the site of the Upper Mill.

At this period Wendover must have been a very independent little community, almost entirely self-governing and self-supporting, as may be judged from the entries in the Parish Register of Marriages, which between the years 1678 and 1686 gives us the husbands' occupations, and enables us to get some idea of the many industries the town could then boast—hemp dressing, weaving, cloth working, lace making, collar making, and chair making all being mentioned during these years.

Returning to the history of Wendover's Parliamentary representation, we find that in the first Parliament of Charles II., Richard Hampden was one of the members, as he was throughout the reign and also that of James II. and in the first Parliament of William and Mary, dying in 1695 or 1696. Richard Hampden's colleague in Charles II.'s first Parliament was John Baldwin, Gentleman Porter of the Tower of London, already referred to as the grantor of the site of the Baptist Chapel, and whose name is, I believe, still preserved in the parish in Baldwin's Wood.

In the next Parliament, on the death of Robert Croke, of Chequers, and, I believe, buried in Ellesborough Church, and father of Isabella Dodd, the wife of Chief Baron Dodd, of the Exchequer, who built the still existing almshouses at Ellesborough, Edward Back-

well was returned. He was a London Alderman and Banker, but also owner of "a fair Manor House at Whitchurch" and farmer of the famous Creslow Pastures. He had been an intimate of Samuel Pepys, who in his *Diary* tells us of his going with "Alderman Backwell, to a house hard by, to drink Lambeth ale"; on another occasion "to dinner to Sheriff Maynell's, the great money man; he, Alderman Backwell, and much noble and brave company, with the privilege of their rare discourse, which is a great content to me above all other things in the world." Pepys' connection with the Admiralty doubtless enabled him to put financial business in the Alderman's way, and these good offices were evidently repaid by certain delicate little attentions. "And so to White Hall with Alderman Backwell in his coach," writes Pepys on April 6th, 1668, and on 28th September of the same year, "So I away by coach with Alderman Backwell home, who is mighty kind to me, more than ordinary, in his expressions." Again, on April 12th of the next year, after witnessing a prize fight between a soldier and a country-fellow, at the Bear Garden, and being "mightily pleased at the sight," he overtakes "Alderman Backwell's coach and his lady, and followed them to their house, and there made them the first visit (the Alderman had apparently recently married), where they received us with extraordinary civility, and owning the obligation. But I do, contrary to my expectation, find her something a proud and vain-glorious woman, in telling the number of her servants and family and expenses. He is also so, but he was ever of that strain. But here he showed me the model of his houses that he is going to build in Cornhill and Lombard Street; but he hath purchased so much there that it looks like a little town, and must have cost him a great deal of money."

In respect of Backwell's return we meet with the first of the numerous charges of corruption in connection with Wendover's representation, it being alleged that the Alderman had advanced Charles very large sums of

money which the King could not repay, except in kind in the form of influencing his return to Parliament, and the House resolved that Alderman Backwell had not been duly elected, and Thomas Wharton was elected in his place. Wharton was the third son of Philip Lord Wharton, who, as we have seen, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the trained bands of Buckinghamshire on the outbreak of the Civil War; and who also may be remembered as a pioneer of religious education, having left considerable sums for the distribution among the poor of "Bibles with the Singing Psalms bound up therewith in calves' leather and Catechisms in sheep's leather," with prizes for the children who should show the greatest proficiency in their study of the Bibles and Catechism. As possibly showing the relative importance of the different Bucks towns at the time, it is extremely interesting to notice that Wendover, Aylesbury, Chepping Wycombe, and Great Marlow were each to receive 20 Bibles and Catechisms, Winslow, Amer sham, Chesham, Beaconsfield, Wooburn, Winchendon, and Waddesdon, 10 each.

Thomas Wharton was anything but pious like his father. He only represented Wendover in one Parliament, subsequently becoming member for the County, and owing to the death of his elder brothers eventually succeeded his father as Lord Wharton. Honours later fell thickly upon him—he becoming under Anne and George I. successively Viscount, Earl, and Marquis. Moreover, he was not only a royal, but also a popular favourite, being, we are told, a very distinguished patron of the turf and possessing the finest stud of race horses and the fleetest greyhounds in the Kingdom. He died on 12th April, 1715, and was buried at Upper Winchendon on the 22nd, when it is said there was such darkness occasioned by a total eclipse of the sun that the funeral procession had to halt on its journey, the stars could be seen, and the fowls went to roost.

Alderman Backwell was again returned with Richard Hampden, the Patriot's son, in two Parliaments of

1679, and in the following year with John Hampden, the Patriot's grandson, whose election for Wendover demands some reference to the Rye House Plot, with which he was supposed to have been connected. Charles II. about this date was prosecuting London's leading citizens for their long tried devotion to the popular cause, forfeiting the City's charter, and those of many other Corporations, which were only regranted with limitations and on payment of heavy sums of money. His brother, the Duke of York, afterwards James II., was even more violent, and under such circumstances there was every excuse for strong measures of resistance. These were forthcoming on the part of Lord William Russell of Chenies, a younger son of the Earl of Bedford, Algernon Sidney, a son of the Earl of Leicester, and in 1679 (till his election was declared void and Sir William Drake returned in his place) member for Amer-sham, John Hampden, and one or two others. As early as 1681, when Charles was ill, a scheme was formed with the Duke of Monmouth and the Earl of Shaftesbury for an armed resistance to the Duke of York's succession, and in 1683 a more definite conspiracy was organised and measures concerted with the Scottish malcontents for risings in the City, in Cheshire and in the West. At the same time another plot was formed without the knowledge of the leaders to assassinate Charles on his return from Newmarket by stopping his coach and shooting him at a farm called Rye House, on the Lea, in Herts, which belonged to Rumbold, an old Parliamentary officer. Charles escaped the trap by leaving Newmarket eight days earlier than he had proposed, and the discovery of the Rye House Plot was followed by the betrayal of Monmouth's conspiracy, and every effort was made by the Court to connect the two. Russell was first tried, and, while admitting the plan of insurrection, denied all thoughts of attempting the life of the King. He was, however, found guilty of High Treason, and beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields, July 21st, Charles saying, "If I do not take his life he will soon have mine." Sidney, who was tried by Judge Jeffreys

(recently made Chief Justice, and said once to have resided in at Welwick in Wendover parish, but probably without foundation) met with a like fate, and Hampden, who was convicted of misdemeanor only, was fined £40,000. He was considerably informed by the King's officers that they would rather have him rot in prison than have his £40,000.

In view of the alleged connection of their member with the Rye House Plot and of his admitted connection with the plan of insurrection, the following fulsome Address to the King from the inhabitants of Wendover on 21st June (the day Russell was beheaded) is of much interest and somewhat astounding:—

“ TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Address of the Principal Inhabitants of the ancient Borough and Parish of Wendover, in the County of Bucks.

“ MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,—

“ We, your Majesties most dutiful and loyal subjects in a just detestation and abhorrence of the late wicked and abominable conspiracy against the life of your sacred Majesty and the illustrious Prince your deceased brother, do here with all humility, prostrate ourselves at the feet of your most dread Majesty, humbly beseeching you to believe and accept our unfeigned, though late, declaration of our duty and our loyalty.

“ Great Sire, in a sincere consideration of our duty to God, and our Christian obedience to you our lawful King and most indulgent Governor, we do now make this public acknowledgement of our hearty thanks to Almighty God for the discovery of the un-Christian and inhuman design; and with much fervency of spirit pray that it may be more and more manifested, freely declaring from our hearts, that we

do wholly disown and abominate all anti-monarchical principles and rebellious actions and controversies; and that we will, to the utmost of our powers, defend the person of your sacred Majesty and this excellent Monarchy, as it is now by law established in Church and State, against all opposers whatsoever with our lives and fortunes. Humbly imploring the Divine goodness to bless your Majesties person with length of days and a great increase of honour and riches, and your kingdom with all the blessings of peace, and a continued preservation from all treasonable attempts of your factious and rebellious enemies."

One cannot help thinking that this Address was intended by way of insurance against possible vengeance to be visited by the King upon the heads of Hampden's constituents, rather than as an entirely sincere repudiation of the latter's action — specially if Lipscomb be correct in stating that in the next Parliament, 1685, under James II., Wendover again returned John Hampden, together with his father Richard. This does not appear in the *Return of Members of Parliament* published by order of the House of Commons in 1878, and, as we know that Hampden joined Monmouth's rebellion in the latter's rash enterprise to obtain possession of the throne in June, 1685, seems unlikely. Hampden was again more fortunate than some of his fellow conspirators, as, though tried for Treason, he was pardoned on pleading guilty.

He was undoubtedly returned for Wendover in the first Parliament of William and Mary (1689), whose accession to the throne he had very naturally supported; but it is said that the humiliation of accepting his life at the hands of James II. preyed on his proud soul, inducing a melancholy despondency, and he committed suicide in 1696.

His son Richard was elected for Wendover in 1701, 1702, 1705, 1713, and 1721, but misfortune again pursued the family, as, after attaining considerable

reputation as a speaker and becoming Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy in 1718, a deficiency of more than £70,000 was discovered in his accounts, owing, it is said, to South Sea speculation, and his estates were sequestered in order to meet the debt. He did not long survive the catastrophe, dying in 1728, when he was succeeded by his half-brother, John, who was also elected for Wendover in 1734, 1735 on appointment to the office of Commissary of Stores at Gibraltar, 1741, and finally in 1747—the last occasion upon which any Hampden represented Wendover, the male line of John Hampden terminating in 1754.

From 1690 to 1700 Richard Beke, who married a niece of Oliver Cromwell and lived first at Haddenham, then at Hartwell, and finally at Dinton, was member for Wendover. He had been knighted by Richard Cromwell and promoted to the command of his Body-Guard, but after the Restoration obtained special pardon under the Great Seal, was made a Colonel in the Army, and naturally dropped his Cromwellian knighthood and appears as member for Wendover as plain Richard Beke, Esq.; he married for his second wife a daughter of Sir Thomas Lee, of Hartwell, and is buried in Dinton Church.

It was early in the eighteenth century that the political corruption in Wendover was at its worst, almost every return being petitioned against, often with success. Even Sir Roger Hill, Kt., who gave £20 per annum for teaching 20 Wendover children, was appointed a trustee of the still existing Hill charity, and was returned for Wendover no less than six times during the reigns of Anne and George I., had to withstand at least two petitions, and on the first occasion was unseated by Richard Crawley, it being held that persons coming by certificate to live in the Borough had not thereby a right to vote, and the right of election was agreed to be in “the Housekeepers not receiving alms.”

It was under such circumstances that the Rev. George Olliffe, M.A., Vicar of Great Kimble and sub-

sequently of Wendover, on 5th May, 1709, delivered a sermon in Wendover Parish Church before "The Society for the Reformation of Manners" to the inhabitants of the Burough of Wendover on their venality and corruption; he complains that "the offenders are too numerous for any to execute the laws upon," "how great a Baulk is given to any after care for the reclaiming them"; speaks of "toping Days and Nights," "dismal swearing and Ranting"; warns them against "the eternal destroying of themselves and selling their souls for a debauch"; and, after this warning with regard to another world, deals with their present interests, asking "of those several Thousand Pounds spent" whether "there are many Pence the more in their Pockets at long run for it," and speaks of the "long and idle haunt that generally follows from the time their extravagancies do commence." Unfortunately, these wise counsels had little effect—the very next year an election resulted in a petition on grounds of "bribery and undue practices," but the House of Commons does not appear to have come to any determination upon it.

Richard Grenville, a Teller of the Exchequer, who with Sir Roger Hill represented Wendover in 1714, married Hester Temple, sister and co-heir of Sir Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham, of Stowe, and subsequently Countess Temple. Their second son was George Grenville, who became Prime Minister under George III., and was the initiator of the resolution in favour of charging stamp duties upon our Colonies, which subsequently lost us America. He had his detractors, but subsequent to his death Burke, while member for Wendover, pronounced an eloquent eulogium upon him in the House of Commons in a speech on American Taxation. There have been other eminent members of the Grenville family, and they are still Bucks landowners.

In the next Parliament Sir Roger Hill lost his seat to the distinguished author, dramatist, and coadjutor of Addison, Sir Richard Steele, and we have two letters

from him written from Wendover in most effusive language to his patron the Earl of Sunderland, a son-in-law of the Duke of Marlborough. In the first, dated 10th March, 1722, he says: "I have received your commands, but fear I cannot leave this place till after the election. As soon as I come to Town I will wait upon you, and am, with the most warm and invioable zeal for your interests, etc."



SIR RICHARD STEELE.

He was returned for the Borough on March 21st with the Rt. Hon. Richard Hampden, great grandson of the patriot, as his colleague, and writes from Wendover on the 24th:—

"MY MOST HONOURED LORD,—

"On Wednesday I carryed the election here by a majority of seventy-one voices above Sr Roger Hill, and hope I am in a method of continuing member for this place on any Future Occasion.

"It is with the greatest pain to me that I earnestly entreat your Lordship to send me the like

sum you did before till I can adjust some affairs of my own. I flatter myself with the hope of appearing one who has long wished to be under your avowed Patronage and who from a Sense of your Great and disinterested manner of Serving your Country, as well as his private obligations to you, is,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s Most Obedient,

“ Most Devoted Humble Servant,

“ RICHARD STEELE.”

There is a most amusing account of his election in *Mist’s Weekly Journal* for April 7th, 1722: “ We hear that a certain Knight Errant called by the name of the Knight of the short face or dirty faced Dick has been a cavaliering round the country in quest of an election, and that he carried two buffoons from one of the play-houses, to engage the people, which has had the effect proposed; but one of them played so many tricks, and entertained the women and children so well that he like to have run away with the election from the Knight had he not been so just (as) to resign his interest to his parton.”

Sir Richard’s hope that he was “ in a method of continuing member ” for Wendover on any future occasion was not fulfilled, inasmuch as he only represented it till August, 1727. He had been Private Secretary, Soldier, had held half-a-dozen different Government appointments from Gazetteer to Surveyor of the Royal Stables, in addition to his better known calling of Author and Dramatist; but, as in the Wendover letter, was generally in money difficulties, and it was fortunate that his Irish wit and versatile talents always secured him helping friends. He made a curious but fruitless attempt to bring himself fortune in a Patent for a ship for conveying live fish. The Petition, which is somewhat quaint in both language and claims, reads as follows:—

“ TO THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTY.

“ The Humble Petition of Sir Richard Steele sheweth that Your Petitioner has for some years past turn’d the intention and Bent of His Thoughts and Studyes to the Good and Service of the Publick.

“ That he has from much Search, Enquiry, and conversation among Sunary Artists, Artificers and Persons of Learning, at Great expence invented a Certain Vessel which by the Structure thereof can bring Fish wherever caught, to any distant place Alive and in Health.

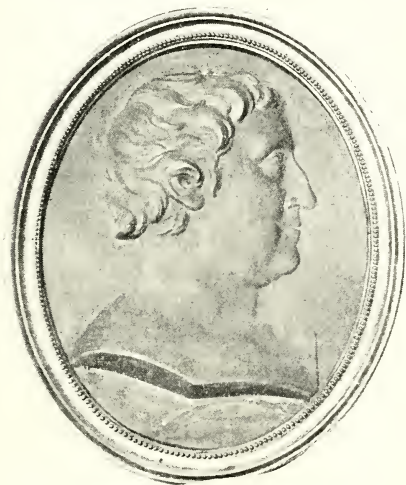
“ That the said Invention will Greatly contribute to the accommodation of the Rich, the relief of the Poor and the Generall Good of All Towns and Cities in Yr Majesties Dominions,” etc.

Notwithstanding that a Patent was granted (June, 1718) we still have the poor with us, and I fear that there is no evidence that the Towns and Cities of His Majesty’s Dominions have greatly prospered from the invention !

During George II.’s reign we find the representation of Wendover divided between the Hampdens and the Verneys, and before its close the influence of the latter family prevailing. Ralph 2nd Viscount Fermagh and 1st Earl Verney in the Irish Peerage, a great grandson of Sir Edmund the Standard Bearer, was elected for Wendover in 1741 and 1747, and on his death in 1753 his son Ralph took his place. There is a fine portrait of the first Earl, believed to be by Hudson, in the collection at Claydon House, and a medallion of the 2nd Earl, here reproduced.

In George III.’s first Parliament (1761) Richard Cavendish, of Latimer, one of the Chesham family, and Verney Lovett, of Soulbury, represented Wendover ; and

on the retirement of the latter by his acceptance of the Stewardship of the Manor of East Hendred, Berks, Earl Verney, at the bye-election, introduced Edmund Burke to Wendover. Burke had a short time previously been appointed Private Secretary to the Marquis of Rockingham, the new Premier who had succeeded Grenville,



RALPH 2ND, EARL VERNEY.

and it has been suggested that the Earl procured Burke's election in order to pave his own way to the Privy Council; but it seems much more likely that he felt the vital importance of attaching so able a man, as Burke had already the reputation of being, to a party so feeble in talent as that of the Marquis of Rockingham then

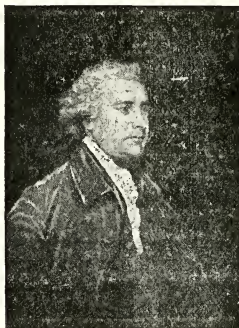
was. Burke is said to have been "tall, erect, well formed, but not robust in appearance, with a countenance of much sweetness, and in his youth was esteemed by ladies very handsome." He, however, had his enemies, and the Duke of Newcastle fruitlessly tried to prevent his appointment as secretary to Rockingham, alleging that his real name was O'Burke, and that he was a wild Irishman, a Jacobite, a Papist, and concealed Jesuit. In the same year that Burke entered the House, Rockingham brought in a Bill to repeal Grenville's Stamp Act, but at the same time declare the supreme power of Parliament over the Colonies. Burke spoke upon this, and the elder Pitt followed him in the debate and instantly and warmly acknowledged the new orator's excellence, declaring that the member for Wendover had left him but little to say, and congratulated the Ministry upon their valuable acquisition. From that time forward to the day of his death Burke belonged to the history of his country.

He purchased the Gregories, Beaconsfield, in 1768, and was again returned for Wendover at the General Election of that year; but not so the other candidate running under the Verney influence. An old authority remarks of Wendover that most of the voters "are permitted to occupy the burgage houses rent free; the conditions on which they enjoy this privilege are easily comprehended"! But in 1768 the electors were induced by immediate pecuniary advantage to depart from their accustomed rule, and a Mr. Atkin, a considerable dealer in lace (then the staple industry of Wendover), laid his plans so secretly and so successfully that on the day of the election Sir Robert Darling, who had been, or subsequently became, Sheriff of London and Middlesex and Lord Mayor, was nominated and carried against one of the Earl's nominees. This was too grave a breach of faith for the Earl to pass over without action, and it is said that all those voters who had thus rebelled were immediately turned out of their homes, and first took refuge in tents and temporary erections in the

stable yard of the Manor House, after which they were moved off to what we now know as Tring Road, outside the limits of the Borough, where huts were erected, hence called Casualty Row, and to this day "Casselty," though the recognised name is York Buildings, some—the most independent minded, it is presumed—remaining there, even after the Earl had relented and reinstated others. Burke writes of him as "an indulgent, humane, and moderate landlord, a great protector of the poor within his reach," but, as the present Lady Verney writes in a delightful chapter in *Memorials of Old Buckinghamshire*, he played the expensive part of a Whig county magnate, and the magnificence of his operations in electioneering and in building, brought him at length to bankruptcy. It is said that the Earl "was one of the last of the English nobility, who, to the splendour of a gorgeous equipage, attached musicians, constantly attendant on him, not only on state occasions but in his journeys and visits: a brace of tall negroes with silver French horns behind his coach and six horses, perpetually making a noise 'blowing very joyfully to behold and see.' " Before the election of 1775 it became clear that the Earl, pressed by "involvements," which Burke knew and feelingly regretted, could no longer return him for Wendover, and, referring to his connection with the Borough, Burke, writing to the Marquis of Rockingham, says: "Most assuredly I will never put my feet within the doors of St. Stephen's Chapel without being as much my own master as hitherto I have been, and at liberty to pursue the same course."

Rockingham, however, found him a constituency in the little town of Malton, on the Yorkshire Derwent, and thither he proceeded and was duly elected after having passed through the experience of being robbed by two highwaymen of ten guineas, and his servant of his watch, on Finchley Common, on their way North. He was no sooner elected for Malton than the important town of Bristol sought his services, and with Malton's

assent he posted off South West and met with the same success. Differences, however, arose with his constituents some six years later, and he returned to Malton, which he continued to represent till the end of his political career. He died at Beaconsfield in 1797. The following eloquent lines to his memory were written by George Canning, who, by appropriate coincidence,



Edmund Burke

was at the time member for Wendover, Burke's first constituency, and, of course, was not, in name, at all events, a political follower of Burke:—

As, in far realms, where Eastern kings are laid,
In pomp of death, beneath the cypress shade,
The perfumed lamp, with unextinguish'd light,
Flames through the vault, and cheers the gloom of
night,

So, EDMUND BURKE, in thy sepulchral urn,
 To fancy's view, the lamp of truth shall burn;
 Thither late times shall turn their reverent eyes,
 Led by thy light, and by thy wisdom wise.

I think it is Dr. Butler, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and one of the chief living students of Burke, who says of him: "Three great countries are for ever connected with his name—America, India, and France. You cannot study the American War of Independence, you cannot trace the early wrongs and the generous vindication of India, you cannot scrutinise the French Revolution and the face which it wore to the men who witnessed it, without meeting at every turn the speech, the genius—I had almost said the heart—of Burke."

In 1780 we find Richard Smith and John Mansell Smith as members for Wendover, but I think they were not representatives of the Carrington family. In 1784 we learn that Earl Verney, expecting to lose his seat for the County, wished to stand for Wendover, but the electors, knowing that his finances would soon compel him to sell his Wendover property, employed an agent to negotiate with other candidates as to the pecuniary consideration they were prepared to offer for the seats; and tradition says that the agent met the electors on the London road, about a mile from the Town, and they asked him, on his arrival in great haste in a postchaise and four, whence he came. He replied, "From the Moon"—a possible reference to "The Moon" public-house, said to have stood some two or three miles nearer London. They inquired, "What news from the Moon?" He said he had brought some £6,000 to distribute. As to the sequel, we know that neither Earl Verney nor his nominee was returned, but John Orde and R. Burton, of whom I can find no trace of distinction unless the former were a brother of Thomas Orde, M.P. for Aylesbury at this date, who subsequently became Lord Bolton, and of whom it is said that when member for Aylesbury, he and his colleague gave each

voter in that town twelve guineas at Christmas, and that with so much certainty were such payments looked forward to that landlords would wait for their rents and tradesmen give credit on the strength of them! Some years later John Orde appears to have been rewarded with the Governorship of Dominica and made a Baronet.

In 1790 poor Earl Verney's Wendover estates were sold by the Court of Chancery to J. B. Church, who naturally became member for the Borough, and took with him Hugh Seymour Conway, who was apparently a younger son of the 2nd Lord Conway, subsequently successively Earl of Hertford, Earl of Yarmouth and Marquis of Hertford, and a nephew of Field Marshal Conway, who was on one occasion removed from military office as a punishment for a vote he had given in the House of Commons, but subsequently became Commander-in-Chief in the Rockingham and Shelburne Ministries, and eventually retired into private life to take up gardening with great enthusiasm. The family were, I believe, descendants of Jane Seymour, who, as we have noticed, had in Henry VIII.'s reign held the Manor of Wendover by way of dower. The first Lord Conway took the name of Conway before being raised to the peerage, and his descendant, after being originally returned for Wendover as Hugh Seymour Conway, subsequently appears as Lord Hugh Seymour without the Conway. Coming of such ancestry, it was only natural that he should be given office, and in March, 1795, we find him standing for re-election at Wendover after having been appointed a Lord of the Admiralty. A copy of the "Form of proceedings at the Election of the Right Honourable Lord Hugh Seymour," probably prepared by the Under Sheriff of that year, and recently lent me by the lineal successor to his practice, Mr. Crouch, the present Bucks Clerk of the Peace and Clerk to the County Council, may be of sufficient interest to reproduce here as a reminder of the quaint proceedings then in vogue. They were as follows:—

“ 1st Proclamation when the Returning Officers and Electors are assembled :

“ ‘ O Yez! O Yez! O Yez! All manner of Persons that have a right to vote or be present at this Election of a Burgess to serve in Parliament for the Borough of Wendover draw near and give your Attendance, that such Election may be forthwith proceeded in according to Law.’

“ Proclamation for Silence :

“ ‘ O Yez! O Yez! O Yez! All manner of Persons now here assembled are strictly charged and required in his Majesty’s Name to keep the Peace and to observe Silence whilst the Constables and Returning Officers of this Borough proceed to the election of a Burgess to serve in Parliament in obedience to the Precept of Lovell Badcock, Esq., High Sheriff of this County.’

“ One of the Constables may then address the Assembly thus :

“ ‘ GENTLEMEN,—

“ ‘ We, the Constables and Returning Officers of this Borough, having lately received a Precept from the High Sheriff of the County of Buckingham commanding us freely and indifferently to cause one fit and discreet Burgess of this Borough to be elected so and in such manner as that the said Burgess for himself and the Commonalty of this Borough may have full and sufficient power and authority to treat for the benefit of this Borough and to do and consent to those Things, which shall happen to be ordained at the Parliament now holding in the City of Westminster upon the affairs of his Majesty, the State, and Defence of the Kingdom and the Church. —It is therefore in obedience to that Precept and the Statutes in such cases made and provided that

We are now convened for the purpose of such Election. You will therefore be pleased to attend to the Authority and Directions of the said Precept and the Statute made in the 2nd Year of the late King George the 2nd against Bribery and Corruption which We will cause to be forthwith read to you, and you who are Householders and are lawfully entitled to vote on this Occasion will then proceed to such Election accordingly.'

" Then read Precept aloud.

" Read the Statute of the 2nd George II., c. 24.

" Administer the Oath to each Constable and let him subscribe it, which is to be attested by a Magistrate or 3 of the Electors.

" The Constables will then say:

" ' GENTLEMEN,—You will now be pleased to Nominate a Candidate.'

" As soon as the Candidate is named, Proclaim:

" ' O Yez! O Yez! O Yez! The Right Honourable Hugh Seymour, commonly called Lord Hugh Seymour, is put in Nomination as a fit and discreet Burgess to represent this Borough in Parliament, and if any Householder of this Borough will put any other Burgess in Nomination, let him now do it, and he shall be heard, otherwise the Constables will forthwith proceed to declare him duly elected.' (Three times.)

" Proclamation once for Silence:

" ' O Yez! O Yez! O Yez! The Constables of this Borough do hereby in his Majesty's Name strictly charge and command all Persons to keep Silence, whilst they declare the Election.'

“ One of the Constables may then say :

“ ‘ GENTLEMEN.—The Right Honourable Hugh Seymour, commonly called Lord Hugh Seymour, having been put in nomination as a fit and discreet Burgess to represent this Borough in Parliament and no other Burgess being proposed, We, the Constables of this Borough, do therefore in discharge of our Duty on this Occasion hereby declare him duly elected. And (turning to him) we do hereby summon your Lordship to attend your Duty in his Majesty’s Parliament now holding in the City of Westminster.’

“ Then produce the Indentures for signature.

“ Final Proclamation :

“ ‘ O Yez! O Yez! O Yez! All manner of Persons who have attended to exercise their Rights and Franchises at the present Election may depart hence in the peace of God and of our Sovereign Lord the King and give their attendance upon a fresh summons.’

“ GOD SAVE THE KING.”

Mr. Church about this date went to live in America, and sold his Wendover property to Robert Smith, an eminent Banker, of Nottingham, the friend and confidential adviser of Pitt, who in 1796 made him Lord Carrington. The Wendover Enclosure Act had been passed two years previously, Thomas Lord Viscount Hampden being at the time Lord of the Manor of Wendover, but the Manor and estates of the Hampdens were soon afterwards sold to Lord Carrington, who had thus acquired the interests of both the Verneys and the Hampdens in Wendover, and he subsequently transferred them to his brother Samuel Smith, the grandfather of the present Squire and Vicar.



1ST LORD CARRINGTON.

To the next Parliament (1796) Wendover returned John Hiley Addington and George Canning — both of them subsequently Ministers of the Crown, and the latter, of course, Prime Minister. Addington was the only brother of Henry Addington, Speaker of the House of Commons, later Prime Minister, and finally Lord Sidmouth. George III. appears to have had a special liking for him, and in 1803, on his brother, then Prime Minister, who was much devoted to him and also indebted to him for valuable Parliamentary assistance, appointing him Joint Paymaster of the Forces and a Privy Councillor, the King would have preferred his appointment to the senior office of Surveyor of Woods and Forests. He was the father of another Addington, who also became a Privy Councillor and was Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Possibly Addington Cottages in Wendover of to-day, though of quite modern construction, may have been named after its former Member.

George Canning, was, of course, a far more distinguished person than his colleague Hiley Addington. Through the generosity of friends he went to Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and there so greatly distinguished himself, both as a writer and speaker, that it is said that even at this early stage Fox courted his adhesion as a promising recruit to the Whig Party. The Duke of Portland also, at a rather later date, when leader of the Whigs, offered him a seat in the House, which he declined, alleging his political opinions as a reason. Some suggest that this decision was not sincere, but calculated: that high office in the Whig Party was regarded as the monopoly of the Pelhams, Grenvilles, Bentincks, Russells, and Cavendishes, and a few other great houses; that to enlist under their banner was to court the fate of Burke and Sheridan himself, and be for ever excluded from high office; and that the Tories offered a more promising opening to a young man of talent and ambition. Whatever view we may take of the question, it is certain Canning early caught the

younger Pitt's approving eye, and, deserting the Bar, entered Parliament as Tory member of Newtown, Isle of Wight, at the early age of 23, without a farthing of expense to himself. He did not speak in the House for nearly a year, but was himself satisfied with his maiden effort, and as to the opinion of the House upon it, reports in a letter that "of the middle folk Windham and Burke are all that I could wish and much more than I could have hoped or expected." In the same year he was selected to second the Address, and Pitt appointed him Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs under Lord Grenville—an appointment attacked by Fox in the House as a "job," an attack which, in view of previous overtures, appeared to savour strongly of the vindictive, and, as subsequent experience proved, was entirely unjustified. The same year Canning became member for what is in one quarter described as "the Treasury Borough of Wendover," Lord Carrington, we may remember, being a friend of Pitt. In that year also he left the Foreign Office, which Lady Malmesbury called his "bondage," though he himself, soon after appointment, had written to a friend that he liked it very much. In 1799 Pitt appointed him one of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and among Mr. Crouch's papers is the original Precept of the High Sheriff of Bucks to the Constables of Wendover, directing them to hold an election to fill the vacancy thus created. Canning was re-elected, as he was also in the following year, after he had been appointed Paymaster-General of Land Forces. In the same year he married Miss Scott, an heiress, whose sister had previously married the Duke of Portland's eldest son. In the following year Pitt resigned office, and, of course, Canning with him, and we find Lady Malmesbury (who, by the way, had marriageable daughters!) writing to a mutual friend: "Canning is in luck to have married in 1800, for from what I hear from well informed persons he would have stood a much less chance for Miss Scott and her £80,000 in 1801."

At the dissolution in the following year we lost Canning from Wendover, and he became member for Tralee, in 1806 again for Newtown, and later for Liverpool. His last speech in the House of Commons was made on 22nd June, 1827, in the hearing of the other great Tory Prime Minister, who claims connection, and, of course, a much closer one, with Bucks, Benjamin Disraeli, who in after years said: "I can recall the lightning flash of that eye and the tumult of that ethereal brow. Still lingers in my ear the melody of that voice"; and Capt. Joceline Bagot, Canning's latest biographer, adds, "It might be difficult to find another statesman of whom it could be said that the general principles of his political views written . . . at the age of twenty-two, should be such as he could conscientiously have rewritten five and thirty years later as Prime Minister." Mr. Gladstone always held a very high opinion of the late Lord Acton's discernment as an historian, and we find that author writing that Canning's was the only name that he himself coupled with that of Burke to hold in highest honour since party government was invented—both of them, we may remind ourselves, Members for Wendover.

The Right Hon. Charles Long and John Smith, I believe a brother of Lord Carrington, followed Canning and Addington as Members for Wendover. Long also had held office under Pitt, and in 1801 resigned with him, receiving a pension of £2,200; he, however, again took office under Pitt in 1804, being re-elected for Wendover on appointment as Lord of the Treasury, and again in 1806 on becoming Principal Secretary of State for Ireland. He may have been a descendant of Walter Long, who raised and had charge of a troop of Cavalry in Bucks on the Parliamentary side in the Civil War, and, perhaps, the present Right Hon. Walter Long can claim connection with him, in which case personal fitness for the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland under Mr. Balfour, might have been backed by hereditary claims.

Long has been described as a respectable official and successful placeman, who voted steadily with the Tories, and was the personal friend of Pitt and Addington, under both of whom he served. At the request of Canning, he retired from the post of Paymaster-General in 1826, and was created Baron Farnborough. He subsequently devoted himself to artistic pursuits, came to be a recognised judge of pictures and architecture, and as personal friend of both George III. and George IV. was their adviser on these subjects. A portrait of him as one of a group of three Patrons and Lovers of Art in the reign of George IV., by Pieter Wonder, of Utrecht, is to be found in the National Portrait Gallery, the other members of the group being his father-in-law, Sir Abraham Hume, and the Earl of Aberdeen. He died in 1838 without issue.

Philip Henry Stanhope, Lord Viscount Mahon, a son-in-law of Lord Carrington, and George Smith, succeeded Long in the representation of Wendover. Viscount Mahon subsequently became 4th Earl Stanhope. He was a man of considerable scientific attainments—F.R.S. and Vice-President of the Society of Arts—though somewhat eccentric, adopting the mysterious “Wild Boy of Bavaria,” Kaspar Hanser, in 1832, a true story of which was written by his daughter the Duchess of Cleveland and mother of Lord Rosebery.

In 1807 Viscount Mahon was again returned for Wendover with George Smith, but being also returned for Kingston-upon-Hull, elected to sit for the latter place, making room for a very remarkable man—Francis Horner—who, if he had lived, might have risen to the greatest heights in the political and legal world. Born in Edinburgh and educated for the law, Horner was one of the brilliant group consisting of Sydney Smith, the eminent wit and divine, Brougham, afterwards Lord Chancellor of England, Jeffrey—Lord Jeffrey of the Scotch Bench—and Sir Walter Scott, who met in their younger days in the Scottish capital, and who launched and conducted the *Edinburgh Review* with Jeffrey as

Editor. Horner, in 1803, migrated to the English Bar, and in 1806, through the unconditional offer of Lord Kinnaird, became Member for St. Ives in Cornwall, a borough with two members and about 250 voters, the result of the poll being: Stephens, 135; Horner, 128; Syme, 93; and Montgomery, 86. He gives an amusing account of his experiences in this, his first election: "I shook every individual voter by the hand stinking with brine and pilchard juice, repeated the same smiles and cajoleries to every one of them, and kissed some women that were very pretty."

At the General Election of 1807 he was left without a seat, but in July, through Lord Carrington's influence, was introduced to Wendover for the vacancy above referred to. Almost his first speech in the House seems rather appropriately to have been one repelling some aspersions cast upon Burke in regard to the latter's views on Crown offices, and Horner refers to him as "one of the proudest ornaments of this or any other country." The General Election of 1812 again left Horner without a seat, as Lord Carrington wished to provide for his nephew, Mr. Abel Smith, father of the present Lord of the Manor, who had come of age since the previous election. Writing to Sydney Smith, Horner regrets that he will no longer have the opportunity of trying to be useful in the immediate concerns of the public, and says that he is something sorry, something ashamed, that during the time he had such opportunity he did so little.

However, in the following year, Mr. William Fremantle wrote offering him a seat at St. Mawes, Cornwall, without any stipulation or pledge, except to resign if his politics should differ from the person who had the means of recommending him the seat. "The expense," Mr. Fremantle adds, "will merely be the dinner, which I rather think does not usually amount to more than £30 or £40." He was duly elected, and steadily increased his influence with the Whig Party, obtaining a position of national importance and honour by force

of his intrinsic merits alone. His health, however, soon gave way, and he died in 1817, at the age of 38. It is said that probably no young statesman of the 19th Century had disappeared from the scenes of his triumphs amid more general expressions of deep feeling. Parliament suspended its Sitting, and subsequently voted to his memory a Statue in Westminster Abbey, and a portrait of him by Raeburn is to be seen in the National Portrait Gallery. Lord Campbell wrote of him in his *Lives of the Chancellors* as the first man in England to make the doctrines of political economy intelligible to the House of Commons; and Sydney Smith, writing to a friend on his death, said of him: "He will always live in our recollection; and it will be useful to us all, in the great occasions of life, to reflect how Horner would act and think in them, if God had prolonged his life."

But to return to Wendover, the remaining history of the representation of the Borough illustrates the strong hold which the Carrington family had there, two Smiths representing it through the rest of the reign of George III., and throughout the reigns of George IV. and William IV. to the Reform Act. In 1831 the Marquis of Chandos (subsequently Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and whose name we still preserve in Chandos Alley) made an attempt to oust the Carrington influence, but the result was: Samuel Smith, 84 votes; Abel Smith, 83; W. Burgh, 35; and J. Carmac, 32; the number of voters were thus probably not more than 119, but two days were taken to record the votes. It is interesting to note that our last two Members were the grandfather and father of our present Squire and Vicar, sitting together as colleagues, and with only a single vote separating them in the final Wendover Parliamentary election.

It only remains to glance at some of the descriptions of Wendover at the commencement of last Century, and to compare them with later ones of that century and with its present state. An old *Travellers' Guide* published early last century describes Wendover as "a

small poor place," and a work published about the same time, styled *A Topographical and Historical Description of the County of Bucks, containing so much of the Beauties of England and Wales as relates to this County*, informs us that Wendover is an ancient borough consisting principally of "mean brick houses built in a low bottom among the Chiltern Hills," a description which, when we remind ourselves that the town lies 400 to 500 feet above sea-level, does not strike us as particularly truth-conveying as regards position, specially as the Topographer goes on to add that "many elegant mansions are also dispersed through this district, which is elevated, healthy, and pleasant." He states that many of the houses and walls were composed of flint, or flint intermixed with brick."

Our historian of 1800 further informs us that "the inhabitants derive their chief support from lace-making, but as a branch of the Grand Junction Canal has been lately brought to Wendover we may suppose their situation will improve." The Canal was completed about 1799, and we are elsewhere told of an interesting experiment which John Westcar, a celebrated grazier of Creslow, tried on 10th December of that year. He caused "a remarkably fine ox" for Smithfield Cattle Show to be conveyed by barge to Blackfriars Wharf, a distance of 60 miles arriving December 12th, instead of by road, 38 miles, but taking twice the time at more expense and with fatigue to the animal. The experiment, however, was not followed, and later, of course, railways opened and canal closed! A mural tablet to Mr. Westcar's memory is to be seen in the Church at Whitchurch, but has been criticised as not a very appropriate memorial to an eminent English farmer, as, though he is accompanied by a fat ox and some fat sheep, he is clad in something after the style of a Roman *toga* and bareheaded.

The old *Travellers' Guide* states that there was no Inn in Wendover in 1800, which seems a rather astonishing statement in view of the two important roads

passing through the Town, and is certainly incorrect. Lipscomb, about 1840, states there were too many public-houses, "indicating poverty rather than opulence or industry," and is very severe upon the meanness of the accommodation of those that did exist, as he is also upon the insignificance of the markets, consisting of "a meagre assemblage of peasantry from contiguous districts standing at the corners of the streets with baskets of straw plait, and at the doors of the public-houses." The population rose steadily from 1397, in the year 1801, to 2,008 in 1831, but after that date outside competition was, no doubt, beginning to tell upon Wendover's local industries, and the introduction of agricultural machinery gradually tended in the same direction, and gave rise to the usual riots, Wendover having its full share of rick-burning and other incendiarism. During the seventy years from 1831 to 1901 the variation in the population was never more than 159, and the difference between 1831 and the latest record shows only a single person to the good, the Census of 1901 giving a population of 2,009!

But if the population has varied little, our efforts in educating the younger members of it have increased: in 1862 about 50 children were stated to be attending the mixed school, and about 80 the infants'; our own numbers now with much the same population are nearly 200 for the mixed school and about 140 for the infants'. We may hope that the educational progress is not in numbers only, but also in quality and value for life's work — Bucks certainly holds a prominent position educationally, if we may judge from official reports and opinions expressed by leading men of the Board of Education.

Another record of some interest which gives us a view of Wendover as it existed a century ago, is the Report of the Rev. St. John Priest, Secretary to the Norfolk Agricultural Society, who visited Wendover in the autumn of 1808 as Commissioner of the old Board of Agriculture. He only deals with 2,000 acres out of

5,782 in the parish, and gives the number of farms as six, varying from 20a. to 400a. Mr. Henry Forster, originally from Norfolk, was then the chief farmer, holding 400a. from Lord Carrington, partly on the hills, partly in the vale—300a. arable and 100 pasture, and keeping 300 sheep, 6 cows, and 15 horses. The Commissioner evidently considered him a very good farmer. Quite possibly it was he who invented the now common “clamp” as a means of storing or keeping turnips, wurzels, etc., as I find it stated in Gibbs’ *Bucks Local Records*, under 14th March, 1792, that in the previous November an ingenious farmer in the neighbourhood of Wendover had selected about 20 load of turnips, from which he cut the tops and tails, piled them in a stack, and thatched them, and that in that state they remained till the frost in February, when the clamp was opened and the turnips found perfectly sound and fresh, and afforded excellent fodder for ewes with lambs — the process being regarded as a wonderful achievement.

Rents in Wendover were somewhat higher than at the present time, averaging £1 per acre, and Rates which had recently risen considerably were nearly as high as now, being about 7s. in the £.

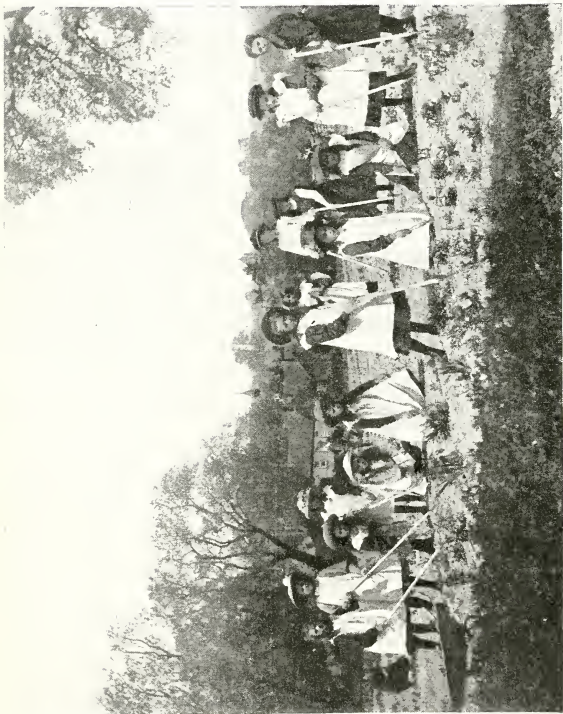
The Commissioner was very severe upon the Bucks open-field cultivation and ploughing with three to even seven horses in front of one another, and loudly sang the praises of two Bucks farmers who had given “the form and appearance of gardens” to their farms, and who ploughed with only two horses abreast.

He speaks highly of the results following upon the Enclosure Acts, both cattle and grain being increased, urges the breaking up of more grass land and the cultivation of more waste, bemoaning the fact that our output of corn was 2,000,000 quarters below our consumption. Alas, it is now many more millions below, and arable land, instead of increasing, has largely diminished during the Century!

The Commissioner had no particular observations to make about cottages, but quotes one case (not in Wendover) of very considerable over-crowding, though not of the usual sort. The occupier was a duck breeder, and in the living room were in one corner about 17 or 18 ducks four weeks old; in another a brood a fortnight old; and in a third a week-old brood; while in the only bedroom were hens brooding ducks eggs in boxes, to be brought off at different periods!

He remarks on most cottages having gardens attached to them or near, and upon the good influence this had upon the labourers. Wendover still retains an excellent reputation in this respect—there being a liberal supply of allotments by the Lord of the Manor and Lord Rothschild, in addition to the gardens attached to many of the cottages, and just a hundred years after the Commissioner's visit, Wendover acquired its School Garden and was pioneer for the County in having a complete set of plots for girls as well as for boys.

The land settlement of Wendover is dealt with in two Private Acts of Parliament and under the general Enclosure Acts. The first of the former in 1777 (17 Geo. III., c. 78) "for confirming Exchanges of Lands and Tythes of and in the Open and Uninclosed Common Fields within the Manor and Parish of Wendover, and for establishing and securing certain Annual Payments in lieu of Tythes" appears to have been passed to get rid of the difficulties arising from small plots or patches of land in which certain persons were interested, being almost surrounded by lands in which others had rights, and by exchanges interests were made less patchy or the patches of larger area, and the way prepared for the Enclosure Act of 1794. It is of interest to observe that the expenses under the Act of 1777 were divided into 511 parts, of which Lord Hampden bore the largest share, 135 parts, while Earl Verney bore 28 parts—Lord Carrington not appearing as an owner at this date. In 1794 (34 Geo. III., c. 43) was passed the Act "for



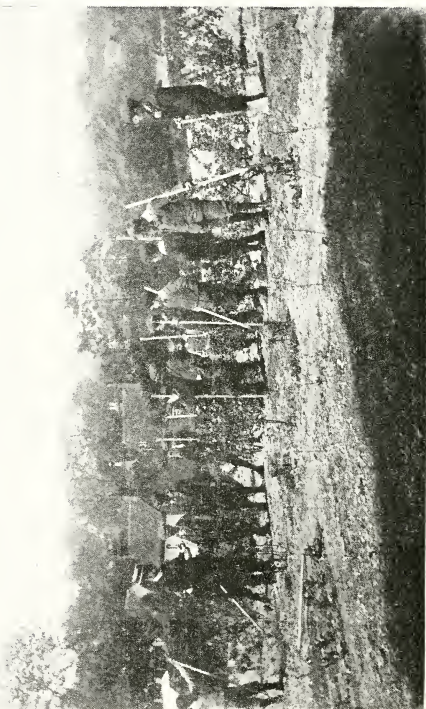
WENDOVER SCHOOL GARDEN.

Dividing and Inclosing the Open Common Fields, Common Meadows, and Waste Lands and Grounds within the Manor and Parish of Wendover," excluding the Common Ground called Bottenden Hill, otherwise Botton-Down Hill. Under this Act and the Award which followed it, 2,208 acres of Common lands were allotted (except a small portion for roads and gravel pits) in the form of private enclosures to the various persons who previously had had common rights therein, and varying in extent according to the extent of such rights. Thus certain lands were allotted to Lord Hampden in lieu of his manorial rights as Lord of the Manor of Wendover, the like to Henry Deering as Lord of the Manor of Lee; other allotments of land to Lord Hampden, Matthew Raper, and others in lieu of Great Tithes, thus, as we have already noticed, freeing almost the whole of the lands in the parish from payment of Great Tithes; other allotments to the Vicar in lieu of Small Tithes, thus likewise freeing from the further payment of those; and the residue of the common lands to the several owners or persons having common rights or interests therein, including the Churchwardens and Parish Officers of Wendover, in proportion to their respective lands, rights, and interests—in all more than 130 separate allotments. To summarise the position after the Award: of Old Enclosures 2,114 acres were freed from tithe, and 724 acres were left chargeable, while 590 acres of Woodlands were not as such titheable; of the New Enclosures 71 acres were allotted as roads, 5 acres as gravel pits, and the rest—2,132 acres to private persons, and small amounts to the Churchwardens and Parish Officers—of course, all free of tithe.

Bottenden Common Ground or Boddington Hill was enclosed in November, 1857, under the general Enclosure Acts and after the usual public inquiry. The area was about 40 acres, of which about 10 acres were transferred to Halton Parish and the remaining 30 awarded in nearly 20 allotments to the various persons interested in the Common, including 4 acres below the Wood near

the top of the Hill to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Wendover to be held by them and their successors in trust as a place for Exercise and Recreation for the Inhabitants of the said Parish and Neighbourhood. It was apparently considered by the Parish that 4 acres near the top of the Hill and on the slope would not make a very desirable Recreation Ground, and accordingly these were exchanged for the present Recreation Ground of the same area on the Aylesbury Road, then belonging to Mr. Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, and the 4 acres on the Hill awarded to him, and the present Recreation Ground awarded to the Parish. The owners of the other small allotments on the Hill also found that the duty of fencing, ditching, etc., imposed upon them by the Award would be very costly in proportion to the value of their allotments, and they accordingly subsequently to the Award sold to Mr. Rothschild.

Of Vicars of Wendover during the century we have been reviewing, Joseph Smith, M.A., was incumbent at its opening. He was not a member of the Carrington family, was something of a pluralist, having apparently held the Vicarage of Aston Abbots as well as Wendover from 1790, and Melksham, Wilts, in addition to both from 1792 to 1802, but he earned the gratitude of posterity by founding in the Vestry of Wendover Church the first Savings Bank in England. His successor was the Rev. Charles Turnor, M.A., who became Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral and resigned the living of Wendover in 1837, when he was followed by the Rev. Spencer Thornton, M.A., a nephew of Mr. Abel Smith, M.P., the Lord of the Manor. He was educated under Dr. Arnold, at Rugby, where he had Dean Vaughan as a fellow-student, and was known as "the Boy Missionary"; became a most zealous parish priest, reorganised Wendover Provident and District Society on present lines, started the Coal Club and a Ladies' Working Society, stopped Sunday trading, and promoted the Sunday closing of public-houses. He died



WENDOVER SCHOOL GARDEN. A Lesson in Fruit Pruning.

suddenly in London at the early age of 36, and on the south wall of the Chancel is a tablet to his memory erected by the parishioners.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Francis Champneys, M.A., who resigned in 1867, when the present incumbent, the Rev. Albert Smith, M.A., son of Mr. Abel Smith, M.P., became Vicar, and the Parish has had the privilege of his ministrations for a longer period than that of any Vicar since the foundation of the Church in Henry III.'s reign.

Of Wendover place-names other than those already incidentally referred to, we have "Cold Harbour," on the old Ickneild Way, indicating sorry lodging for travellers, and presumably "Cold Comfort," the same, on the Aylesbury Road; "World's End," out of the way; "Little London," a whimsical name for a small hamlet; possibly "Bucksbridge" may have indicated a bridge by which the buck were in the habit of crossing from the woods on one side of the valley to the other, or "Bucksdene," the vale they browsed in; "Brocksdene," the badgers' vale; and Dobbin's Lane, Dame Agnes' Lane. "Well Head" indicates rise of the spring, in respect of which the *Travellers' Guide* again astonishes us by its information that this is "the first rise of the Thames." Having floated down the Upper Thames away in Gloucestershire, the statement is certainly startling, but if the *Guide* means that some of the waters of the spring find their way into the Thame and thence to the Thames, it may not be, or have been, so far wrong.

This attempt to gather together some of the threads which go to make up the History of Wendover certainly enforces the conclusion that its inhabitants live in a Town, or call it Village if you will, which if it were adequately treated could show a most interesting past alike in regard to its institutions, the events which have happened in or about it, and the many distinguished men associated with it during little more than two centuries in which it sent Members to the House of Commons.

APPENDIX A.

VICARS OF WENDOVER

[*The dates are those of presentation except where otherwise mentioned.*]

HUGH, *temp.*, Hen. III.

EUSTACIUS

RADULPHUS, "Clericus de Micham," 1221

ROBERTUS DE WENDOVER, 1227

WILLIAM DE LEYCESTER; on his resignation

NICHOLAS DE LONDON, 1292

RICHARD DE REIGATE, 1306; on his resignation

THOMAS CAMPION, 1310

JOHN DE SOUTHWARK, 1312

JOHN BREWERE

WALTER DE GIPPESWICK, 1333

JOHN AT HULL, 1349

THOMAS TYFFIELD, 1361; who exchanged for
Alcester, Warwick, with

RICHARD BENET, 1368; who exchanged for Rushall,
Wilts, with

JAMES BRIGGE, 1378

JOHN WAMBURGH; who exchanged for Christ Church
Vicarage, nr. Caerleon, with

WILLIAM PATERNE, 1381

ROBERT NORMANTON

HENRY NEWMAN, *alias* PLIGHTESLE, 1390

THOMAS GNOWSHALL, 1401

WALTER FROST; who exchanged for St. John's
Chapel Rectory, East Hendred, Berks,
with

WILLIAM STRETCHER, 1404; who exchanged for New Church, Kent, with

JOHN WHYTING, 1405; who exchanged for Bierton with

JOHN LECKHEMPSTED, 1406

JOHN PARKER, 1419

WALTER KINGHAM, 1423

REGINALD, "*fil.* Galfridi Thomson"; on his resignation

NICHOLAS CLARK, 1430

WILLIAM GERWARDELY, 1435, by the Bishop on lapse

WILLIAM SOUTHWYNDE; on his resignation

JOHN MAGOT, 1454; on his resignation

THOMAS BOLLE, 1456

JOHN TORKESSEY, 1460

ROBERT CATESON, 1460; on his resignation

WILLIAM BAYLY, 1470; on his resignation

WILLIAM EVERTON, or OVERTON, resigned 1493. In June, 1525, he willed to be buried "in the Chancel of Our Lady at Wendover," and gave two closes called Brockholes and Blackholes for ever for his anniversary to the Vicar of Wendover and Minister of St. John's Chapel.

ROBERT KING, 1525. By Will styled Sir Robert. Directed interment in Chancel.

WILLIAM BORSTOW, or BORSCOUGH, *A.B.*, 1540. Presented by King Henry VIII. all previous Vicars by the Convent of Southwark. On his resignation

WILLIAM ANDREWS, 1554

RICHARD ROGERS, 1560

WILLIAM SEER, 1575; on his resignation

THOMAS GIBSON, 1579

WILLIAM KELLIE, 1595

JOHN ARMITAGE, 1615; ejected 1643, being a Royalist

SAMUEL WELLS, 1643

JOHN WATSON, 1660, by King Charles II.

ROLAND JONES, 1663

MORGAN GODWIN, 1665; on his resignation

EDWARD JOLLIE, A.M., 1668. Deprived 1689 and
went to France.

THOMAS DOLBY, or DOLBEN, 1689; on his resignation

JOSIAH HORT, 1706. Chaplain to Philip, Lord
Wharton. Afterwards Bishop of
Ferns, in Ireland.

GEORGE OLIFFE, A.M., 1715. Also Vicar of Great
Kimble.

THOMAS BLAND, A.M., 1752

JOSEPH SMITH, A.M., 1788. Prebendary of Salis-
bury Cathedral. On his resignation

CHARLES TURNOR, A.M., 1802. Prebendary of
Lincoln Cathedral 1818. On his
resignation

SPENCER THORNTON, A.M., 1837

CHARLES FRANCIS CHAMPNEYS, A.M., 1850. On
his resignation.

ALBERT SMITH, A.M., 1867.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.

Mr. George Worley, the author of *Southwark Cathedral*, in *Bell's Cathedral Series*, draws my attention to a grant cited by Lipscomb, Vol. II., p.p. 467-8, by Sibil de Tingree in the reign of King John, from which it would appear that she granted the Advowson of Wendover to the Priory of St. Mary, Overy, implying that the Prior and Convent were not the founders of the Church as suggested on p. 19, and that it may have been a Royal foundation or founded by the Lord of the Manor.

APPENDIX B.

BURGESSES IN PARLIAMENT FOR WENDOVER.

EDWARD I.

1300 (At Lincoln) Walter de la Hale; John de la Burg.

EDWARD II.

1307 (At Northampton) Walter de la Kent; John de Sandwell.

1308 (At Westminster) Robert atte Hull; Elias de Broughton.

JAMES I.

1623 John Hampden (who beareth the charge); Alex. Unton, Knt.

CHARLES I.

1625 Richard Hampden; John Hampden.

1626 Sampson Darell, Knt.; John Hampden.

1628 John Hampden; Ralph Hawtree.

1640 (Short Parliament) William Pye, Knt.; Robert Croke.

(Long Parliament) Robert Croke; John Hampden, who making his election for the County,

Thomas Fountaine, on whose death about

1646 Edmund West, and on his election for the County,

1647 Richard Ingoldsbey (of Waldrige, Dinton).

No date. Thomas Harrison, in place of Robert Croke
“disabled to sit.” Qy. as a Royalist.

NO RETURNS GIVEN UNDER OLIVER CROMWELL.

RICHARD CROMWELL.

1658 William Hampden; John Baldwyn.

CHARLES II.

1660 Richard Hampden; John Baldwyn.

1661 Richard Hampden; Robert Croke, and on his death,

1673 Edward Backwell, who being unseated,
Thomas Wharton (son of Philip, Lord Wharton).

1679 Richard Hampden; Edward Backwell.

(At Oxford) Richard Hampden; Edward Backwell.

1680 Edward Backwell; John Hampden.

JAMES II.

1685 John Hampden; Richard Hampden.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

1689 John Hampden; Richard Hampden.

1690 Richard Beke; John Backwell.

WILLIAM III.

1695 John Backwell; Richard Beke.

1698 John Backwell; Richard Beke.

1700 John Backwell; Richard Beke.

1701 Richard Hampden; Richard Crawley.

ANNE.

1702 Richard Hampden; Sir Roger Hill, Knt., who
being unseated,

Richard Crawley.

1705 Richard Hampden; Sir Roger Hill, Knt.

1708 Sir Roger Hill, Knt.; Thomas Ellis, and on his
death,

- 1709 Harry Grey.
 1710 Sir Roger Hill, Knt.; Harry Grey.
 1713 Sir Roger Hill, Knt.; Richard Hampden, who
 making his election for Berwick upon Tweed,
 James Stanhope.

GEORGE I.

- 1714 Sir Roger Hill, Knt.; Richard Grenville.
 1721 Rt. Hon. Richard Hampden; Sir Richard Steele,
 Knt.

GEORGE II.

- 1727 Rt. Hon. James (Hampden) Lord Viscount
 Limerick; Rt. Hon. Richard Hampden, who
 making his election for the County,
 John Hampden.
 1734 John Hampden; John Boteler (of Woodhall, Wat-
 ton at Stone, Herts.) who being unseated,
 1735 Rt. Hon. James, Lord Viscount Limerick.
 (May) John Hampden re-elected on appointment to
 office of Commissary of Stores at Gibraltar.
 1741 Rt. Hon. Ralph, Viscount Fermanagh created 1st
 Earl Verney; John Hampden.
 1747 Rt. Hon. Ralph, Earl Verney; John Hampden.
 1753 Ralph, 2nd Earl Verney, on the death of his
 father.
 1754 Ralph, Earl Verney; John Calvert.

GEORGE III.

- 1761 Richard Cavendish; Verney Lovett, and on his
 acceptance of the Stewardship of the Manor of
 East Hendred, Berks,
 1765 Edmund Burke.
 1768 Edmund Burke; Sir Robert Darling, Knt.

- 1774 Joseph Bullock; John Adair (Qy. Adams), and on his electing to serve for Caermarthen, Henry Drummond.
- 1775 Thomas Dummer in place of Joseph Bullock who accepted the Stewardship of the Manor of East Hendred, Berks.
- 1780 Richard Smith; John Mansell Smith.
- 1784 John Orde; R. Burton.
- 1790 J. Barker Church; Hugh Seymour Conway.
- 1795 Hugh Seymour, commonly called Lord Hugh Seymour, re-elected after appointment as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.
- 1796 John Hiley Addington; George Canning.
- 1799 George Canning (of Spring Gardens, London) re-elected after appointment as one of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India.
- 1800 (June) George Canning re-elected after appointment as Paymaster-General of Land Forces.
(Dec.) John Hiley Addington re-elected after appointment as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.
- 1802 Rt. Hon. Charles Long; John Smith (brother of Lord Carrington).
- 1804 Rt. Hon. Charles Long re-elected after appointment as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.
- 1806 (Feb.) Rt. Hon. Charles Long re-elected after appointment as Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
(Oct.) Philip Henry Stanhope, commonly called Lord Viscount Mahon (son-in-law of Lord Carrington); George Smith (of Selsden, near Croydon, Banker and Director of the East India Company).

- 1807 (May) Lord Viscount Mahon; George Smith.
 (July) Francis Horner, on Viscount Mahon elect-
 ing to serve for Kingston-upon-Hull.
- 1812 George Smith; Abel Smith.
- 1818 George Smith; Hon. Robert John Smith (son of
 Lord Carrington).

GEORGE IV.

- 1820 George Smith; Samuel Smith (of Woodhall Park,
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- 1826 George Smith; Samuel Smith.

WILLIAM IV.

- 1830 Samuel Smith; Abel Smith.
- 1831 Samuel Smith; Abel Smith.

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